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Vol. 24 No. 4

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Good Bye Gun Shows?

Gun shows are the latest bugbear of the anti-gunners. Chicago Congressman Rod Blagojevich (D-IL) is pushing HR 109 to impose massive new federal controls on gun shows. Anyone intending to put on a gun show would be required to submit an application, including all sorts of personal information, and a fee, to the ATF for a federal license.

Within 30 days after the show, the licensee must then submit to the ATF copies all records and documents involved in firearms transfers at the show, including the names, addresses and ages of all purchasers, including the make, model and serial number of all weapons transferred.

In short, the whole panoply of background-checking, record-making and reporting is extended to (1) the gun-show operator, and (2) collectors and other private citizens not now so oppressed. It is claimed that a significant percent of guns used in crimes change hands at gun shows. This is merely the excuse for yet another axis of attack on private ownership of firearms. A study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, released in December 1997, shows that only 2% of criminal guns come from gun shows.

Most of the exhibitors at gun shows are already Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders subject to the existing background-check and recording requirements, and it is a felony for anyone knowingly to sell a firearm to a felon or other disqualified person, so apparently even this minute percent represents sales to a "straw man" with a clean record who then transfers the gun to the criminal. "Straw man" transactions are also already illegal. In short, laws already in

effect, if enforced, are quite adequate to deal with this non-problem.

Clearly, then, the real objective here is to extend the whole apparatus of background checking, record-keeping and reporting to gun collectors and ordinary, law-abiding private citizens outside the rather vague statutory definition of a "dealer." There is no such thing as a "private dealer;" this is a myth invented by the gun-grabbers.

If a person falls within the statutory definition of a "dealer," he or she must get an FFL or go to jail. Attacking gun shows is a first step toward abolishing all privacy regarding firearms, on the way to universal gun registration, to be followed, no doubt, by confiscation.

Or, I should say, attempted confiscation, followed by armed resistance, bloodshed and tragedy.

The gun grabbers try to paint the picture of gun shows as being a sort of "Tupperware party" at which anything goes. This is simply not true. Attendees, buyers, sellers and dealers are still subject to federal laws forbidding sale of guns known to be stolen, sale of guns to known felons, and so on, as well as whatever state and local laws apply.

In short, HR 109 is another hypocritical "feel-good" bill that will accomplish none of the objects it seeks to promote, but will certainly drive yet another nail in the coffin of our Second Amendment and other rights. You do nothing for the prevention of crime by taking the means of self-defense away from the intended victim.

Phone your congressmen now: 202-224-3121. Write them too: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Do it today. ✍



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Foreword by Robert K. Brown

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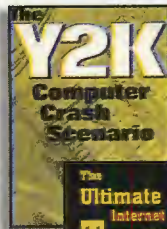
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by Robert Merkle

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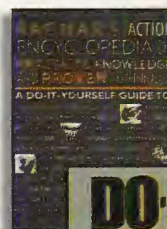
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by Norbert Zaenglein

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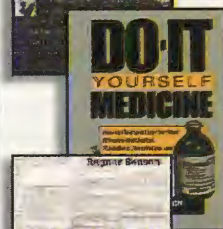
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by Ragnar Benson

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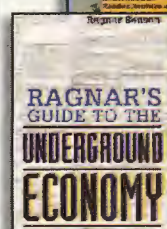


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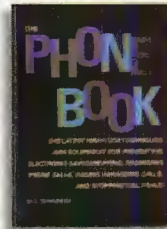


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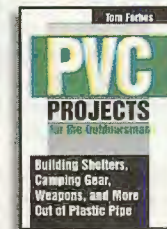
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BULLETIN BOARD

Japan Is Leading Efforts in the U.N. to Impose Worldwide Civilian Disarmament. Japan claims civilized people don't need guns.



New China News Agency courtesy, Penguin Books, *The Rape Of Nanking*

These Nanking residents might disagree.

In mid-December, 1937, the Japanese army invaded China and overran Nanking. They disarmed its one million inhabitants, then embarked on a six-week campaign of terror, bloodshed and death.

Nanking's helpless citizens were subjected to the most heinous abuse: the fortunate ones were used for bayonet practice, decapitated in beheading contests, burned to death, or machine-gunned by the tens of thousands. They were fortunate because they died quickly.

The unfortunate ones were tortured to death, buried alive or subjected to deadly "medical experiments." Tens of thousands of young girls, pregnant women — even elderly grandmothers — were brutally and repeatedly raped, often until they hemorrhaged to death, or were mutilated in unspeakable fashions. Unborn babies were hacked out of wombs and bayoneted for sport.

The Japanese army killed up to 500,000 innocent Nanking residents. Japan has yet to acknowledge, not to mention atone for, this atrocity.

Think about this the next time Japan suggests civilized societies should not be armed.

Factual Source: *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*, by Iris Chang, Basic Books, ISBN 0465068359

courtesy of Lawyer's Second Amendment Society, Inc. / www.guntruths.com

Chute 'n' Shoot

Biathletes, take note: tired of skiing and shooting, or maybe just tired of the snow? Jump Mississippi 20 March 1999 and then shoot pistol, rifle, shotgun and submachine gun events for timed accuracy. Jumpers must have USPA "D" license. Entrants are encouraged to provide their own weapons but weapons will be available for loan on site at no charge. Fun jumps before and after the match. Entrant fees are only \$25, and the Sherman Hill Public Shooting Center will be open before and after the match at no additional charge. Ammo may be bought on site. How good does it get? Time is short on this one, so call today: SES, Inc.: 601-957-1004, or Sherman Hill Public Shooting Center: 601-469-1119, or Clyde H. Morgan: 601-825-3971. Trophies awarded.

Black Hills To Make Marine Match Ammo

Black Hills Ammunition has been awarded a contract to provide .223 (5.56mm) match ammo for the Marines, to ensure the Marines

will have a three-year supply of the custom-loaded Black Hills ammo they procured on a "non-contract" basis and used to take the Infantry Trophy (Rattle Battle) team match, and numerous individual matches, at Camp Perry in 1998. Custom-produced for the Marines and not a catalog item, the ammo used to win the matches and contract used a 73-grain molycoated Berger bullet. The contract stipulates ammunition that is of magazine length and capable of five consecutive groups of 10 rounds each, of not more than 2 inches at 300 yards.

Angola Being Reminded

As the prospects for peace in Angola worsen with escalating open conflict between UNITA and the MPLA government, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard has announced that anti-personnel landmines are being relaid, which thwarts the ongoing program to remove the estimated 10 million mines already in place. All political contact between UNITA and the MPLA has been severed, with both groups rearming. Because of the escalating conflict, U.N. peacekeepers may be withdrawn, according to U.N. Secretary General Annan.

Pentagon Damns Hughes Technology Aid To China

A still-classified DoD study has concluded that Hughes transferred satellite-launch data to China that would be of use to advance the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) ICBM force. The investigation by Air Force Intelligence and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) has renewed calls for stronger export controls over commercial satellites. One Pentagon official characterized the report as "pretty damning," noting that in some cases Hughes gave the Chinese information without prior government approval.

Washington Guard To Mobilize For Y2K

The Washington National Guard will mobilize some 3,000 men, about half its ground troops, as a precaution against civil disorder or breakdown in government services caused by computer glitches when clocks roll around to 2000. According to State Adjutant General Major General Gregory Barlow, the troops are slated to be on duty across the state from 31 December to January 1.

Y2K Bug Could Befog GPS

According to a new DoD Inspector General's report, with 2000 looming in less than a year, the Pentagon still is not taking adequate action to ensure the Global Positioning System will not fail due to a "millennium bug." GPS is a satellite-based, high-tech navigational system used by everything from cruise missiles to deer hunters, and the IG report stated the GPS program office has neither assessed all its receivers, nor arranged for sufficient backup.

Foreign GIs Up

According to an article in *Army Times*, the number of Army recruits who are not U.S. citizens has increased nearly 50% over the last three years. According to Colonel Jack Carter at the Army Training Center at Ft. Jackson, foreign recruits are mostly coming

Continued on page 12

Any martial arts or military gurus want to make the same offer?

Get My FREE Report On Lethal Fighting—And I Guarantee For The Rest Of Your Life You won't Lose Using My System. And I Put It In Writing!

This man had 3 high-ranking black belts and over 300 street-fights in 20 years, yet 15 minutes of this undefeatable system he knew Jerry's guarantee was for real. Let him tell his story.

Let me tell you buddy, when you have a little age on your butt and there are four Gang-Bangers shoving you around and making rude gestures at your wife, you want to act. Look, I didn't care about getting pushed but if they touched my wife I was in the game. Only this is no game. There's four scumbags with weapons moving all around me. I can take one out with a kick. But by the time my foot comes down, two of them will stab me in the back. If I body-tackle the biggest and grapple him down to choke him out, the other 3 will just kick my head off. Or the guy with the gun will shoot my knee-cap off and I will be helpless as they rape my wife.

Wake Up! Street-Fighting Skills Aren't Enough!!!

You better wake up out there, this is the real world. Not even my street-fighting told me how to handle this. I was lucky they weren't out for blood. They just wanted to intimidate me. I was damn angry. Not at what happened. Hell, my ego wasn't the deal. Staying alive was! I just realized that I spent \$5,000-7,000 hard-earned dollars (not to mention the years) to learn what only works in a ring or a cage with referees and men that think they can street-fight. Yeah, they pick up a chair or use a broken bottle or knife but they never really know what they're doing. Look, let's just stop here, if you've read this far you're probably one **Tough SOB** like me, if you're not, stop reading this information. It's not for the weak-willed who have to get drunk to get up the guts to have a slap fight. It's for you real men that want to know the TRUTH about *lethal fighting skills*. I knew that after 5 minutes of watching Jerry Peterson's lethal SCARS® system he was nothing short of revolutionary. He'll change your mind about power and fear. I don't know if you believe in a God but Jerry must be talking to him. There's just no other answer to how he solves complex fighting problems. Jerry says, "It's in the math but it doesn't hurt to have God on your side." Don't make the mistake I did in '93, the first time I read about this system, "Thinking how could it be true?"

This Guy Is "Nothing But Hype"

Wrong, the documentation is there. The government backs it up. He's taught, developed and standardized combat schools for the SEALS and other Special Operations Forces not just in the US but also with NATO groups.

Ask Yourself, "Can I Handle The Truth?" If You Can, Then Here Is Real Credibility.

Jerry Peterson's SCARS was demonstrated on a secure military base, in true combat fashion, to no less than the *US Secretary of Defense*, the leading *4 Star General*, plus the *Secretary of the Navy* and powerful *Congressional Leaders*. They all watched in total amazement as the SEAL's executed fighting skills never before seen, absolutely flawless on every combat action they took using guns, knives, full gear, single and multi-fighting and most impressively their bare hands. *SCARS never failed them and it will never fail YOU!!!*

If That Doesn't Blow Your Mind This Will

You can bet your life on this man's credibility, 30,000 other professional men have. You can't waste one more day learning a sport system that has counters to every move. **With SCARS you're undefeatable!** Look, do you think Jerry could have achieved his renown credibility if the secret SCARS science of lethal combat could be countered. Absolutely not! The fact is, Jerry Peterson is the one civilian in the history of the USA to have accomplished such professional credibility. I challenge you to find one individual that has ever gotten their fighting system to be reviewed by such powerful leaders at the same time. Of course, to make it more unfair, also get the official stamp of approval for implementing their system as required training for the US military. Want to check this out? Here is just one of the official course numbers K-431-0096, check it out with the Navy. I did, boy was I impressed when they gave me the list of what this guy has done. It only took me six months. Damned bureaucratic red tape!

Want More Credibility?

Jerry Peterson's SCARS project is the only system ever to pass all the combat requirements of the United States Defense Department. Then to go one better he raised that standard and personally trained the elite Navy SEALS, some made it, some didn't. But those that did today hold the coveted SCARS/CFC qualification of subject matter experts in the field of hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat. By the way, this qualification becomes part of their official military records. In fact, there would be no experts if Jerry Peterson did not license the SCARS-*Combat Fighting Course* to the Navy. Are you getting the picture? Don't wait as I did. Don't be fooled by the follower's...

You Know The 'Little Men'

Ever since 1993, self-proclaimed military 'gurus' and some street-fighters have been following Jerry making clever claims, *if you read between the lines there's nothing but ambiguous claims and self-given titles*. Have you noticed nobody produces any official paperwork?

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This is what you'll find out. Don't wait. Let go of the past and learn the science of Lethal Combat. This is the first and only original Navy SEAL System. **YOUR LIFE WILL DEPEND ON IT!** Sorry, I'm jumping ahead let me explain why the martial arts can't and won't get the official documentation. First the system has to be universal to all men. This means that 100 men go in. One-hundred men come out 100% efficient in all aspects of CQB (close quarters battle). To prove that the government must test, and test SCARS they did, for over five years in real field conditions, on all terrains, including water with real weapons and in real conflicts. I'm not going to get into all the government testing, that will take forever. Plus there are some we can't talk about. But in all those years SCARS never failed EVER!! And that's why it's still the standard.

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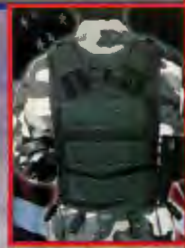
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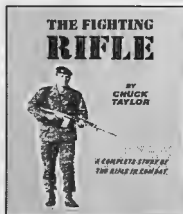
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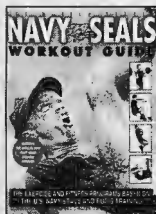
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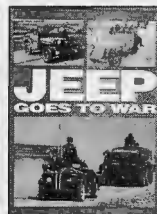
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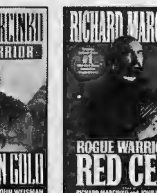
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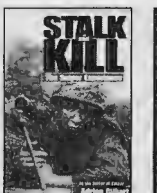
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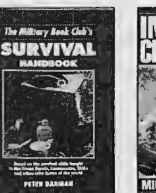
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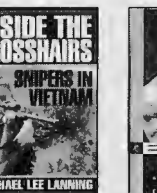
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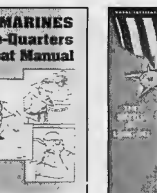
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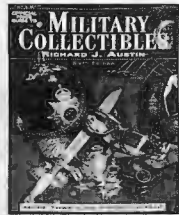
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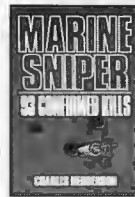
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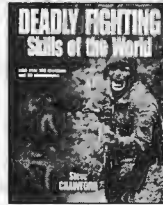
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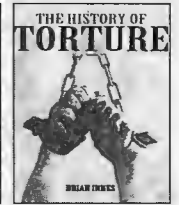
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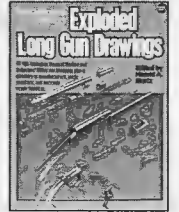
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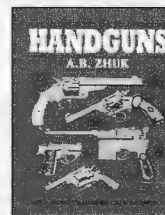
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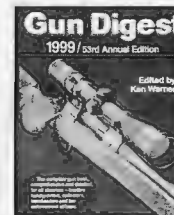
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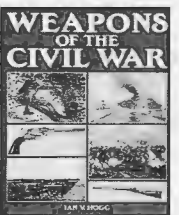
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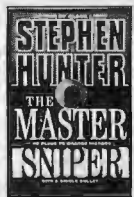
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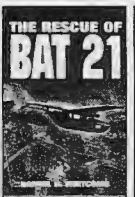
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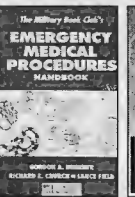
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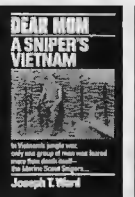
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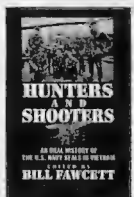
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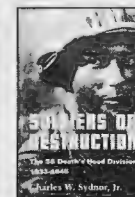
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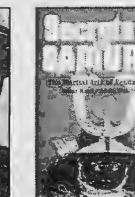
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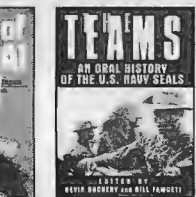
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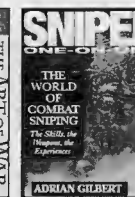
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Bulletin Board

Continued from page 6

from Russia, Mexico and Great Britain. Former Ft. Jackson commander Lieutenant General Bruce Blount, USA (Ret.) told the *Army Times* that if the trend continues it could raise concern among Americans. "It gets further and further away from the image of the American public," he said.

Shades For Chopper Jocks

According to *Jane's*, the Army has supplied Black Hawk and Apache pilots serving with NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia with protective goggles following two incidents in which potentially blinding lasers were directed at peacekeeping aircraft.

Iwo Jima Survivors Reunion

Iwo Jima Survivors, 54th Anniversary Reunion, Holiday Inn, Wichita Falls, TX, 20-23 February 1999. Iwo Jima Survivors Association of Texas, Box 668, Wichita Falls, TX 76307.

Web Watch

The People's Republic of China has been a bit slow putting up official web sites advertising its security concerns and military might, so we thought we would help out:

The World Factbook page on China:

<http://cliffie.nosc.mil/~NAWFB/factbook/ch.html>

MILNET: China: <http://www.onestep.com/milnet/china.htm>

SIPRI Military Expenditure Graph for China 1988-1997: <http://www.sipri.se/cgi-bin/backend/milex.pl?coun=China%2C+P.+R.>
The ALL-NEW James Mulvenon's Chinese Security Homepage!: <http://members.aol.com/mehampton/chinasec.html>

(Comprehensive coverage, with photos)

Background Notes: China 11/96: http://www.state.gov/www/background_notes/china_1196_bgn.html (U.S. State Department).

China — Consular Information Sheet: <http://travel.state.gov/china.html> (U.S. State Department travel info)

China Watch:

http://www.claremont.org/1_chinwat.cfm (Claremont Institute)

China's Air Force Enters the 21st Century: <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR580/mr580.html> (Rand Corp.)

China's Air Force: The Long March to Modernization:

<http://www.rand.org/publications/RB/RB32.html> (Rand Corp.)

Professionalization of the Senior Chinese Officer Corps:

<http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR901/index.html> (Rand Corp., by James Mulvenon)

Chinese History: Leaders of People's Republic of China:

<http://www.cernet.edu.cn/history/index.html#leaders> (CERNET)

Chinese Spies Had Open Door To Oval Office:

<http://ece-www.colorado.edu/~mccomas/spies.html> (*Sunday Times*)

The Year of the Rat: Who Holds the Keys to Chinagate?:

<http://www.cbn.org/news/stories/981214.asp> (CBN)

House Finds China Stole Classified U.S. Technology:

<http://www.conservativenews.org/InDepth/archive/IND19981231e.html> (CNS)

Key Stories on Chinese Missile Allegations: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/missile/keystories.htm>

(Capture this now! 37+ stories from *Washington Post OnLine*)

Chinese Military Aviation: <http://www.concentric.net/~Jetfight/>

Chinese Military Links:

<http://members.aol.com/rhrongstad/military/rcap/china/prcmil.htm>

(Eye strain from copying these addresses? Here's the easy way out.)

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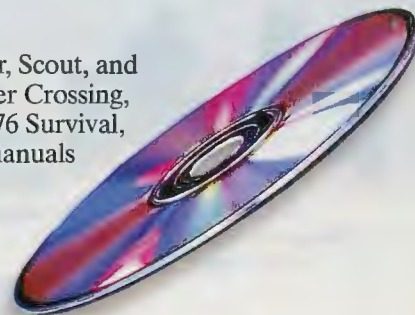
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SLICK-WILLIE-WATCH

Bill's Bill Of Rights

The Lewinsky fix, the resulting stain, obstruction of justice, and a bold-faced lie on TV probably won't do it. Clinton will likely weather that storm and serve out the remainder of his term.

Regardless of his ability to live through impeachment and a make-believe Senate trial, Clinton will go down in history as the president who did more to erode the U.S. Constitution than all others combined. Forget about what he's done to the definition of "high crimes and misdemeanors." Presidential impeachment, as the framers intended it, should be the least of our concerns.

Clinton, after all, has destroyed those portions of the Constitution that effect the every day lives of each American household, and therefore the long term welfare and viability of our republic.

Take, for example, the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which serves as a direct attack on the constitutional right of habeas corpus. In this bill, which Clinton eagerly signed into law, prisoners on death row have only one year to get a federal court to review the fairness of the state trial that doomed them. After that, they can fry.

Unfortunately, this constitutional bastardization explains Clinton's ability to survive. It's a smoke and mirrors tactic, in which he appeased some foes while secretly betraying the core values of his

left wing constituency. Clinton signed this bill to appeal to conservatives who want to get tough on crime. Many conservative Republicans fell for it, and were appeased by this. Liberal Democrats, who have traditionally worked against the death penalty, didn't pay much attention. They were too busy worrying about the "right wing conspiracy" Clinton claims is consuming his presidency, and had the wool pulled over their eyes.

Getting tough on crime is great. Subduing habeas corpus, for political gain, is criminally insane. Since the Supreme Court reinstated the rights of states to conduct executions, 75 death row inmates have been proven innocent with the new science of DNA testing.

Wrongful conviction is precisely why the Founding Fathers included in our Constitution the right to a lengthy, cumbersome process of appeals upon conviction of a crime. It was their belief we'd be better served if 10 guilty men went free, than if one man suffered for a crime he didn't commit. Apparently, Clinton's more concerned with his political ass than the welfare of innocent death row inmates.

All gun owners know what Clinton has done to the Second Amendment to the Constitution, with his repeated efforts to infringe upon the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms.

But what about the Fourth Amendment — the one that protects

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citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government? Surely, Clinton is a prime defender of this. Isn't he, after all, the man who barred Justice Department lawyers from former White House Counsel Vincent Foster's office after his suspicious death? Wasn't it Clinton and his staff who considered that an unreasonable search?

Yes, it was. But once again, that was a matter of the president's self interest. As for the rest of the nation — which we hope will far outlast Clinton to serve the interests of countless trillions of human beings into the future — well, apparently that's not as important as Vince Foster's office. Otherwise, Clinton would not have so eagerly signed the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 1999, which contains another "tough on crime" measure.

After the bill was passed by the House and the Senate, reports syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff, some new language was slipped in at conference committee, where minor differences between House and Senate versions of bills are to be rectified. Going largely unnoticed — as the entire nation is distracted by the president's misuse of a young intern — the bill was altered to permit roving wiretaps of citizens by the FBI.

"The Fourth Amendment came into being because the Framers were still smarting from the abuse of the general search warrants by British customs officers," Hentoff writes. "And that's why the Fourth Amendment requires law enforcement agents to get a warrant, based on probable cause of criminal activity, that must 'particularly describe the place to be searched or the persons or things to be seized.'"

Under provisions of the new Clinton law, anyone subject to a roving wiretap will be followed, and all telephones to which he is "reasonably proximate" will be tapped. In other words, if one such suspect lives on your block, the feds can tap your phone. If such a suspect visits your house as a door-to-door salesman, you may have your phone tapped for subsequent months, or even years. If you're related to a suspect being followed by the FBI, or are friends with such a person, they might very well tap your phone with the blessings of William Jefferson Clinton. In essence, this phone tapping law eliminates your Fourth Amendment protection from unlawful

search and seizure, and at the same time eliminates any guarantee of privacy from government intrusion.

We shouldn't be surprised. This is the same president who wanted the Supreme Court to affirm the Communications Decency Act, which set out to effectively neuter the First Amendment by allowing government to censor the Internet. Clinton defended this as a way to protect children from pornography.

And Clinton, the champion of multi-cultural causes, is the president who authorized deportations of brown-skinned aliens who are suspected of having links to terrorism. By signing the 1996 Anti-Terrorism bill, he removed the rights of aliens to retain lawyers and defend themselves, or to even see the evidence against them. So much for compassion, equal rights and civil liberties. "If it's brown, flush it down" could be the motto of Clinton's immigration policy.

And somehow, through all of the abuse of constitutional liberties, rights and privileges, Clinton is viewed by Americans as the victim of a vast right wing conspiracy. What happened to the feminists, who have destroyed men on mere allegations of sexual impropriety in the work place?

Where's the ACLU, which should be hammering Clinton for eliminating the due process rights of aliens and convicted criminals? Where are the liberal who once hated all cops and thwarted authority? Why aren't they picketing the White House in protest of roving wiretaps, which neuter the Fourth Amendment?

Where are these people? They're enjoying their Range Rovers and golf carts, watching big screen TVs in homes the size of castles, trying to ignore the Lewinsky thing, and crediting Clinton for the fruits of a red hot economy. They're oblivious to the fact Clinton will destroy the Bill of Rights, which is the very document that allows us the all the pursuit of happiness we take for granted.

But economies rise and fall. And so do nations. When our foundation finally crumbles, from eight years of a constitutional termite calling the shots, we'll all feel like Lewinsky. We'll be mindless little dupes, left with only the ruins and stains of a lying selfish cheater. ☒

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Missile Shortage: By firing 90-plus cruise missiles and 325-plus Tomahawks in Operation Desert Fox, Pentagon stands on verge of cruise missile shortage. • **Detonator Shortage:** Clinton Administration opts to build only a small thermo-nuclear bomb trigger factory at Los Alamos, N.M., leaving U.S. in quandary over how to fulfill needed plutonium triggers once manufactured at Rocky Flats in Colorado. Since trigger-manufacturing ceased at Rocky Flats in 1989, Energy Department was working on the assumption a new major factory would be built at Amarillo, Tex., or Savannah River, Ga., to produce 150-500 triggers per year. Los Alamos factory will be capable of building only 50 triggers per year, and won't begin until the year 2005. • **Army Reduction:** Army completes plans to reduce active forces to 480,000 and reorganize units. Some heavy divisions to be reorganized into lighter units, artillery units to be standardized, battalions with four companies to be cut into only three, individual reservists to have jobs inside active division, and National Guard units to be paired with active Army units for better training. • **Readiness Cutbacks:** White House admits deliberate cutbacks on readiness training funds for units deployed in U.S. (as well as "quality of life" funding), using money instead to keep overseas units fully ready and to pay for long-term mobilization program. • **Cause of Crash:** U.S. Air Force concludes Captain Craig Button crashed his aircraft into mountain in Colorado because of depression over breakup with his girlfriend and his mother's anti-military views. Button's family rejects the analysis. • **Flagships:** Navy studies ways to build four new fleet flagships to replace existing ships.

2

RUSSIA

START-2 Treaty: The Duma postpones hearings on START-2 treaty in protest over U.S. air strikes on Iraq. Russia briefly withdrew its ambassador from the U.S. Russia orders some military units to higher state of alert, but U.S. dismisses it as posturing. Some analysts believe Russians felt so betrayed by U.S. attack that they had resolved to again make Russia a great power against the West; other analysts doubt Russia's ability to achieve superpower status. • **Lawless Society:** Chechen President Maskhadov tells crowd of 80,000 he needs their support to crack down on lawlessness. • **Bloodbath:** Chechen Vice President Arsanov calls for Maskhadov to resign rather than begin bloodbath with powerful warlords. • **Radiation Bomb:** Chechen police discover bomb containing highly radioactive material near rail line in Argun. Bomb could not have produced nuclear explosion, but would have contaminated 1 square mile.

6

CUBA

Wave of Humanity: U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service suggests recent wave of Cubans smuggled into U.S. may be relatives of some of the 30,000 Cubans who entered the U.S. through Guantanamo in 1994. Having had four years to work, some of these have raised enough money to pay smugglers to bring in their relatives.

5

MEXICO

Massacre: Chiapas Indians reject government reports on 1997 Acteal massacre as whitewash even though government shared blame. EZLN staged re-enactment of massacre to commemorate the dead. EZLN says government to blame for stalled peace talks.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Synagogue Bomb: Pipe bomb thrown into crowded synagogue in Wynberg in protest of U.S. bombing of Iraq. • Pan Africanist Congress announces dissolution of 20,000-man "army" in 1999.

14

BOSNIA

Nerve Gas: Human Rights Watch calls for investigation into charges Bosnian-Serb troops fired BZ nerve gas shells at refugees near Srebrenica in 1995. Witnesses saw strange colored fog in area where shells had fallen, and reported hallucinations, murders and suicides afterward.

12

INDIA

Power Triangle: Prime Minister Primakov calls for "strategic triangle" to include Russia, China and India. Analysts says such a power triangle would be difficult to manage, as Chinese have maneuvered against India for decades.

13

JAPAN

Nanking Massacres: Japanese court rules Japanese soldiers implicated in Nanking Massacres cannot be brought to trial. China expresses regret after ruling.

17

UGANDA

Attacks in North: Rebels of Lord's Resistance Army continue attacks in north, abducting 50 people. • Treason suspect Peter Abitegeka escapes from court after setting off bomb.

18

KOREA

Pirate Ship: South Korean police went to China to investigate cargo ship missing since October. Ship showed up in China in late December; Indonesian pirates are suspected.

3

CHINA

Techno Transfer: Classified Pentagon report concludes the Hughes evaluation of Chinese rocket failures was so detailed that it constitutes technology transfer to China and may have compromised U.S. national security. Report was leaked to Associated Press. • **China Scandal:** U.S. House committee concludes Hughes Electronics and Loral Space & Communications harmed U.S. national security interests by selling missile and satellite technology to China. Committee finds corporations, not White House, are to blame. • **Hostile Western Ideas:** Government cracks down on subversive publications with "hostile Western ideas." • **Lumber Shortage:** China to import 90 million more cubic meters of lumber in 1999, more than double the amount in recent years, due to ban on logging intended to prevent future floods. • **Activists sentenced:** China sentences several democracy activists to prison, including: Qin Yongmin (12 years), Wang Youcai (11 years), Xu Wenli (13 years), Zhang Shanguang (10 years), and Xu Wanping (3 years hard labor). None were allowed lawyers or to present a defense of any kind.

4

COLOMBIA

Drugs and Rebels: Government agrees to withdraw 130 unarmed troops from San Vicente del Caguan in effort to begin peace talks. Security at site will be provided by bodyguards of the President and rebel leader Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda. • **Police Attacked:** FARC rebels attacked police posts at Saladoblanco, Becerrir, and Nutibara, saying there would be no ceasefire before peace talks. • **More U.S. Support:** *Washington Post* reports U.S. boosting anti-drug support for Colombian military despite poor human rights record. Colombia denied any of the aid would be used against rebels.

7

LIBERIA

Brutal Cops: Residents of capital (Monrovia) complain of increasing lawlessness and police brutality. Five jailed followers of Roosevelt Johnson agree to testify against former compatriots in coup trial. Fourteen others plea not guilty; remaining 13 have fled abroad.

8

SIERRA LEONE

Rebel Attack: ECOMOG troops defeat December rebel attack on diamond mining town of Koidi. Kamajor militia killed 70 rebels in nearby battles. Liberia sent Army units to the Leonean border in mid-December, supposedly to prevent fighting from spilling over but actually to enter Sierra Leone and support the RUF rebels.

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LIBYA

Pan Am Bomb: German Judge Job Tillman says "paymasters and string-pullers" of Lockerbie Pan Am incident were religious leaders in Iran. U.S. and Britain threaten to press for tighter sanctions if Libya does not hand over two suspected bombers. Khadaffi rejects threat and says the men will be tried only before an international court of judges from U.S., Britain, Libya and other countries. U.S. and Libya reject idea.

11

GERMANY

Helping Russia's Cash Flow: Germany's *Ruhrgas* agrees to pay \$660 million for 2.5% of the Russian *Gazprom* consortium, giving Moscow desperately needed cash infusion.

15

BRITAIN

Sticky Foam: Britain admits to developing non-lethal weapons, including sticky foam, anti-personnel nets, stun-guns, acoustic weapons, infrasound, high-powered microwaves and insects bred to sting rioting mobs into submission.

16

HAITI

Bobbing for Haitians: U.S. Coast Guard picks up 140 Haitians at sea, and takes them back to Haiti. • Efforts to arrest former President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier (exiled in France) prove of little interest to Haitians, who want more recent leaders arrested.

World Sitrep is compiled in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications (P.O. Box 8759, Dept. SOF, Amarillo, Texas 79114-8759); subscriptions are \$77 per year (26 issues), \$81.80 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

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Star Trek HOLOsight

Weapon sights featuring an illuminated reticle pattern, usually, but not exclusively, a red dot, are now commonplace. In fact, in 1997 the U.S. Army signed a contract for the purchase of 80,000 Aimpoint Comp M electronic reflex sights. While there is no longer anything startling about battery-operated sights projecting a red dot on the target, Bushnell (Dept. SOF, 9200 Cody, Overland Park, KS 66214-3259; phone: 913-752-3400; fax: 913-752-3550; web site: <http://www.bushnell.com>) has a weapon sight that features advanced technology previously encountered only on the heads-up displays of weapon targeting systems found in the cockpits of modern fighter aircraft.

Holography is the technique of producing visual images by means of wavefront reconstruction, especially by using lasers to record on a photographic plate or screen from which a three-dimensional image can be projected. A hologram, or holograph, is the pattern or image generated in this way. Bushnell's revolutionary HOLOsight uses a hologram of a reticle pattern recorded on a heads-up display window. When illuminated by laser (an acronym which stands for "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation") light, the holographic image becomes visible at the target plane, where it remains in focus with the target and provides instant target acquisition.

The Bushnell HOLOsight projects what appears to be an illuminated reticle pattern directly on the target, yet no forward light is actually projected. To me, the HOLOsight's most important salient feature is the operator's ability to acquire the target without regard to

a cheek weld or consistent alignment of the shooter's eye, the sight's reticle pattern and the target. No matter how you move your head and eye about, the reticle pattern will always remain in exactly the same place on the target. This is an incredibly important phenomenon, especially when rapid and accurate target acquisition under stress becomes literally a matter of life and death during a gunfight.

After adjustment of elevation and windage zero, you simply look through the sight assembly's window, place the reticle image on the target, and fire. The eye relief on the HOLOsight is an incredible 1/2 inch to 10 feet. The elevation adjustments are in 1/2 MOA click increments and those for windage adjustments are in 1/4 MOA click increments.

Reticle patterns can be changed in the field in less than 30 seconds, without loss of zero. There is a wide range of interchangeable reticle patterns. The Model 400 sent to us for test and evaluation was equipped with the standard reticle which is a two-dimensional ring (65 MOA in diameter) with tick marks and a center 1-MOA dot. This Model has a mount for the Weaver-type or Mil Standard 1913 rail system. The Comp Model 430 series HOLOsights are provided with a bridge mount that goes around the M1911 slide and attaches to the frame without touching the slide.

Other two-dimensional reticle patterns include dual rings (for wing shooting and 20-inch IPSC targets), general purpose open crosshairs and diamond patterns, the so-called "Tombstone" pattern developed for the mover stage of the Bianchi Cup, 10 and 20 MOA open rings and a 1-MOA dot. A unique three-dimensional

Bushnell HOLOsight attached to a GG&G integrated rail system mounted on a Colt M16A2.



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Lockaid \$69.95



PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5-piece set of warded picks is included. A 16-piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a low price of

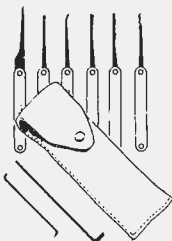
Pix 13 \$42.95



PXP 8

- Shirt Pocket Size.
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- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

PXP 8 \$24.95



PXP 10

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 13 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

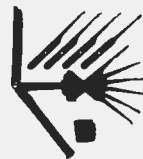
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WKS PICKS

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ESP-13

This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5-piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17-piece set total.

ESP-13 \$45.95



SESAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.

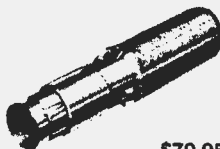


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The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute.

A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.



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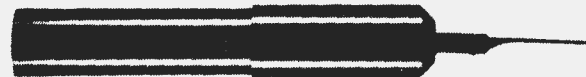


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Electric Picks



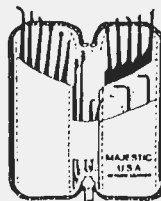
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SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

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MD16

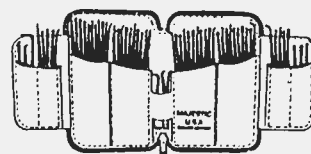
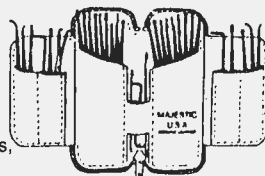
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MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor.

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MD60

Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 60 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor and Warded Master Keys.

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rising tracer dot gives the illusion of a line coming out of the gun barrel and ends in 1-MOA dot which is underneath one-half of a standard reticle ring. The Model 400 HOLOSight comes equipped with a Dusk & Dawn hunting filter, for use in lowlight environments, that lowers the image brightness by a factor of 80.

The HOLOSight itself has 20 levels of brightness adjustment. When the sight is turned on, the brightness level is automatically set at the factory to level 15. The user can program the sight himself to turn on automatically at level 1 (minimum brightness setting) or level 20 (maximum brightness setting), but he must do so each time the sight is turned on or the sight will move back to the factory default setting. The HOLOSight is also equipped with a battery check indicator. There is also an auto shutdown mode and the unit will automatically shut itself off eight hours after the last push-button control has been pressed. The user can also program the HOLOSight for a two-hour shutdown mode. The HOLOSight is powered by two commonly available Type N 1.5-volt batteries. As the batteries run down the reticle brightness will remain at the set intensity and then shut down abruptly. The operator must reset the electronic system each time the batteries are inserted. A 7/64 size Allen wrench is included for that purpose and for installing the sight on a Weaver-type rail.

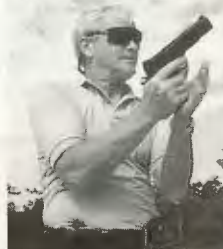
Magnification of the HOLOSight is 1X and its tubeless design provides an unlimited field of view at 100 yards. An optional 2X magnification adapter is available for the Model 400. It can be attached or removed without changing the point of impact. It extends the HOLOSight's range and can be of benefit in certain types of hunting and competition applications. It weighs only 2.5 ounces and does not affect the HOLOSight's incredible eye relief range. This adapter is multi-coated, waterproof and fog proof.

Very popular now in IPSC competition, the Bushnell HOLOSight can be mounted on handguns — both revolvers and semiautomatic pistols, shotguns of all types, and rifles in many configurations. We installed our test specimen on a Colt M16A2. Several law enforcement agencies have mounted it on the Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine gun. The HOLOSight is shockproof, waterproof and fog proof. Weighing only 8.7 ounces and only 6 inches in overall length, it's less than half the weight and length of a conventional scope.

I see tremendous, and still largely untapped, potential for the Bushnell HOLOSight when mounted on the fighting shotguns, tactical carbines and submachine guns in law enforcement, military and home defense inventories. Those who fight to win and survive have been presented with another important tool in the arsenal of essential equipment. The Bushnell HOLOSight can usually be purchased for approximately \$369. Can you put a lower price on your life? ☒



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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

Desk Mate Security Case

One good option for keeping your kids safe from household guns — and household guns safe from your kids — is V-Line's Desk Mate Security Case. This does not take the place of safety training, of course, but may well stand you in good stead when untrained guests or burglars would like to fondle your hardware. Measuring 7-1/2 x 9 x 2-1/2 inches, the case can accommodate many different handguns, yet is compact enough to allow mounting in tight spaces.

The included Quick Release Mounting Bracket makes installation under a desk or shelf very easy — and available additional brackets will allow the unit to be moved from point to point, such as

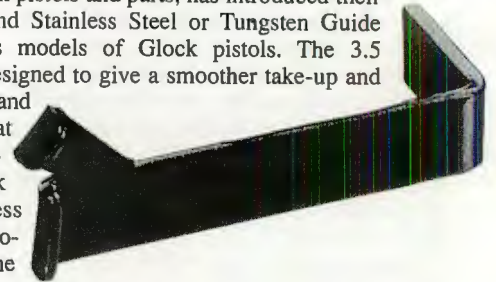


from the bedroom, to the office, to the RV. Trigger locks may prevent a weapon from being fired, but they do not prevent it from growing legs. The Desk Mate Security Case will keep the weapon secure yet readily available if needed for defense.

V-Line has a complete line of security cases for handguns, rifles and shotguns that are strong, attractive and reasonably priced. For the dealer nearest you, contact V-Line, Dept. SOF, 370 Easy Street, Simi Valley, CA 93065; phone 805-520-4987; fax: 805-520-6470; or visit them on the web at www.vlineind.com

Glock Goodies

Glockworks, a division of Gunworks International and a stocking distributor of Glock pistols and parts, has introduced their new 3.5 Connector and Stainless Steel or Tungsten Guide Rods for the various models of Glock pistols. The 3.5 Connector (right) is designed to give a smoother take-up and lighter trigger break, and is a drop-in part that will improve the trigger pull of any Glock pistol. The Stainless Steel Guide Rods provide more weight at the



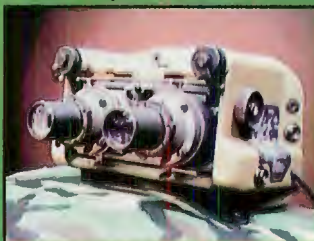
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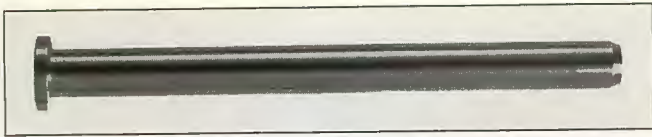
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muzzle; the Tungsten Guide Rods provide even more weight at the muzzle. Both are non-captured, allowing the shooter to experiment with different recoil springs, both are stronger than the factory part, and will not chip, crack or break; both come with a lifetime replacement guarantee.

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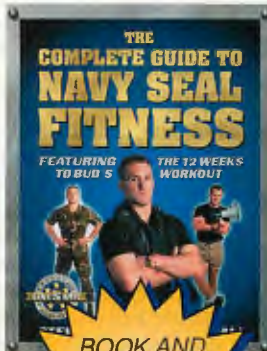
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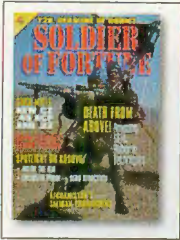
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Death From Above?

Owww! You guys gave us a blanket party over this one. From a flood of letters, we're printing the best two that

cover the questions readers made, which were by and large very good points: However, everyone who wrote seemed to have missed the object of this semi-tongue-in-cheek exercise. This was not a tactical jump—as we pointed out, its sole purpose was to test the feasibility of putting suppressive fire on a DZ with a belt-fed MG instead of keeping it packed in a jump case. Two jumps were made and the feasibility of the premise was borne out. It would have been better with an M249 SAW and ammo carrier and to shoot at the camera man, but the exercise was to test an idea, not to irritate authorities in the People's Republic of California, so it was not live-fire. Remember how John Browning tested the idea of a gas-operated machine gun with a lever-action Winchester lashed-up with a gas-capturing plate at the muzzle and a series of cranks, levers, push-rods and springs to work the action? It looked like hell, too—but it proved the idea was feasible and he went on to produce the famous "potato digger" gas-operated machine gun based on that principle. Being tactical and in uniform may or may not be part of the scenario to test an idea. In this case it was not.

Even though some of you may have missed the point of this test, you get high marks for the points you raise! We'll reply with three-dot answers for space reasons.

This was a joke, right? I got the magazine and after seeing your silly ass article I looked to see if I got my April 1st issue early. First of all I am a sky diver too. Would you really want a brightly colored canopy announcing your position? Next, the stock would have so little effect on the airstream that by putting a hand out on the opposite side it would be countered ... completely. Why does the tandem master need to support the shooter? Especially a shooter carrying a plastic non functioning weapon. Hell, he may need help holding the ammo belt closer to the Mattel toy gun or was that gun by Fisher Price? On the way down the

diver cameraman should not have trouble matching the fall rate of the tandem pair because your picture five clearly shows the drogue chute is out! Even if the Mattel toy gun did shoot it would have melted the nylon strap off the front of the barrel. Why did they bother to wear cammo and then wear a pretty blue frappe hat? So tell me, this WAS a joke, right?

Mike Thomas

P.S. Are all the other stories completely made up all the time or just some of the time?

No joke, just an investigation ... for the April cover we plan the commander in chief, if he's still employed and if we get to pack the chute ... of course we'd want a bright canopy to mark us, so they'd know where to drop the chow ... only Stallone has mastered the art of one-handed M60 fire ... the gun was neither Mattel nor Fisher-Price, but custom built for us by HCI ... now, I want the American people to listen real good: we never, never, never make up a story, although it is possible we might stage a test, depending on what your definition of the word is, is ...

I would have to say that the cover and story of the "tandem threats" gives a little more morale in my pit to keep us from wanting to kill each other. We had fun being extra critical about every detail that was in the pictures and little story. Most of us know Dennis Chalker and we were wondering how much he is getting paid to do cheesy stunts like that? Some of us could use the extra cash. All of us know his reputation is legendary in the frogman community — we just thought this was a little goofy.

Things like "tandem threats" might be appealing to some of your readers — they are most likely the ones who are sitting in their basement with the lights down low, in their cammie underwear, watching *Chicks And Guns, Part II*, with the \$15,000 assault rifle in one hand and a bottle of astro lube in the other, just waiting for the second Civil War to happen.

Here's our list of stupid things about the whole spread:

1. Non-tactical blue frap hats.
2. Non-tactical faggot-looking tandem rig.
3. M60 on the cover not even loaded,

plus I am sure the civilian drop zone you were using would not appreciate you guys shooting live close to people's homes.

4. There are no sights on the M60, what the hell are you going to hit?

5. Anybody who has shot an M60 more than 20 rounds knows that you don't want to touch the barrel, let alone put a nylon sling anywhere near it.

6. It is extremely dangerous to jump without having all your gear strapped down — there was the possibility of gear coming loose and their having a horseshoe malfunction (or you might get lucky and only lose your gun during freefall).

7. Most of all, if you are in a small unit there should be no reason that you have to shoot your way into a DZ; you are already dead if you need to do that. Do a few night jumps: You're not worried about bullets coming at you, you're worried about the ground and if you are going to break a leg or two. Then you worry about the bullets.

8. You should notice the Russian paratroopers are on static line parachutes, they drop in great numbers along with tanks and lots of air-to-ground support. They are fighting to take over an area. The tactic might work for them that way.

I feel that you should not try to make things up to sell magazines, you should report on things that are really happening. Like Afghanistan, Bosnia, most of central Africa — that is the only reason most professionals would read *SOF*. Keep up the good work on that.

Bored in the Gulf,
Brenton Oakes

Being an extraordinarily good sport, Mr. Chalker did not ask for money for this test operation, although he said he might have to get some remuneration if we wanted to do a third jump with no chute (if you need a little pocket change when you rotate CONUS, we'll make you the same offer).... You raise good questions; we'll reply by your numbers:

1. As noted above, not a tactical op.
2. To a straight-leg like this writer, all tandem rigs look suspiciously like they were made in San Francisco...
3. You're right, the locals would have thought it tacky to blast our way onto a civilian DZ — which is why we did not.

Continued on page 29

"All Your Fancy Fighting Skills Won't Earn You An Extra Second Against This Devastating New Natural Streetfighting System!"

Why are black belts, boxers, Ju Jitsu wrestlers... and especially those silly macho "military" guys who claim to be so tough... scared to death when faced with this amazingly simple new fighting secrets?

Dear Friend,

My name is Bob Pierce... and I have *serious "inside" knowledge* about every "new" fighting system that's ever been "hyped" in this magazine. I have *financed* the marketing for many of these systems... I'm well-known in all the important military, martial art and military circles. (My contacts include former Navy SEAL and Army Special Forces, plus guys who train SEALs, FBI and CIA agents, big city SWAT police, and special "black bag" operatives the government doesn't want you to know about.)

I don't seek these men out. These hotshots come to me... often *begging* for a chance to show me their "stuff".

Well, let me tell you something. You need to hear this: Almost *all* those super-hyped fighting systems are...

Pure Over-Rated Garbage!

Real fighting... especially the vicious, no-rules attacks and fights *you're* every likely to see in the street... has *changed forever!* Almost *everything* you know is obsolete, and I don't care how long you've been training or who you've trained with.

Worse... if you are ever forced to actually use anything you've learned — and if you're like 99% of the guys out there trying to put together a few "guaranteed" skills to protect yourself and your family — you will likely get hurt if you attempt to use any *fancy stuff* against an experienced streetfighter or mugger.

Every fighting system I've seen is just *too damned complicated* to master in a reasonable time (and they're just *lying* to you if they say different)! Those military guys are the *worst* too... anyone who *knows* the SEALs and Army "elite" special forces work knows these soldiers use *weapons* to fight with... NOT their hands! Hand-to-hand streetfighting is the *least important skill* they need or seek... and they learn a few "basic" hand-to-hand skills almost as an *afterthought!*

The truth is, when these "elite" soldiers are pitted against an experienced, world-class streetfighter...

They Lose!

I'd almost *given up* trying to find an *honestly* simple fighting system that was easy to master (not just "learn")... and that I could *count on* if I was forced to defend myself.

And then I stumbled on something... I think

you'll find it interesting, also.

Let me tell you a very short story that may be the most important one you ever hear in your life: Just outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, there's a beat-up warehouse where certain "unusual" types of people like to gather. If you're a stranger out here, you're not just unwelcome...

You're Meat!

And it's very easy to tell if you're not one of the "in" group: These guys shave their heads and tattoo *swastikas* on their scalp. They're permanently pumped with a steroid-and-amphetamine rage. They wear jack boots, carry chains, knives and baseball bats... and they never, *ever* fight fair. All fights are three, four, or a *dozen* to one.

They're Skinhead Neo-Nazi's... probably the most *vicious* and *dangerous* punks roaming America. (Compared with Skinheads, an inner-city Compton gang of Crips or Bloods look almost like *Boy Scouts*.) Skinheads never need a *reason* for violence — just being alone and close enough to jump will make you an instant victim.

These Sick Jerks Actually Enjoy Hurting And Humiliating People!

Anyway, on this particular night an ordinary-looking man named Chris Clugston made the mistake of driving out to this isolated warehouse. He thought he was going to see a band play music, maybe find a nice girl to dance with, have some fun on a hot summer night. He didn't have much money on him — after paying the "cover" to get inside and ordering a beer, all he had left was *one little nickel* in his pocket. Remember that — a single nickel. Not even enough to leave as a tip at the makeshift bar.

Chris didn't know what to make of all the skinheads giving him the "evil eye". He thought they just had really bad haircuts and silly taste in clothes. He felt no fear... in fact, as he passed a table of them, he reached out and good-naturedly rubbed one of them on the scalp. "Nice haircut, fella," he said.

Three skinheads stood up and quickly cornered him. The band played on.

Now, you have to get this scene right to understand the *importance* of what happened next: The *smallest* of the three Skinheads coming at Chris was his same size; the others were taller, more muscular, heavier. They were reaching for objects in their pockets (it was too dark to see clearly) smiling with relish for the stomping they expected to hand out. No

one in the warehouse had the slightest urge to help or stop the fight. There was nowhere for Chris to escape.

In less than a second, he suddenly realized he was about to be jumped by three experienced streetfighters... and if he didn't do something right *NOW*...

His Life Wasn't Worth Much More Than That Nickel In His Pocket!

Well, what would *you* have done? You know, in your heart, you run the risk every day of being in the same situation... cornered by punks who want to do you (and your *family*, too, if they're nearby) *serious harm!* It's not even connected to robbery anymore — they don't want your nickel, they want the thrill of stomping your face into hamburger.

It could be in a parking lot downtown, in a movie theatre, outside your local Seven-Eleven...

Or In The Cool Darkness Of Your Own Bedroom, Late At Night!

Have you *seriously* thought about what will happen to *you* during real-life crunch time... where *your* life (and that of your loved ones) aren't worth a plugged nickel?

Back in that lonely Tulsa warehouse, Chris didn't have *time* to think. He didn't *need* to... in a *blink*, he turned that nasty situation around 180 degrees... and those three Skinheads, *even though they were poised and ready to attack*, found themselves suddenly thrust into a world of pain and confusion. But Chris didn't use anything that even *remotely* resembles karate, or Judo, or Tai Kwan Do, or even boxing or wrestling. No. Instead...

Chris Did Something These Experienced Fighters Had Never Seen Before... And Hope They Never See Again!

There were other Skinheads in that old warehouse that night... *but they didn't bother Chris!* Not after they saw what he did (with an absolutely chilling calm and sense of confidence) to those three streetfighters who cornered him! There was something in his eyes... something the *first* 3 punks missed in the dim light... that now warned the rest of them away.

The fight didn't take three seconds... because while two of the Skinheads went down hard *immediately*, the third broke and

ran, and Chris couldn't catch him! These guys have been spotted around Tulsa occasionally since then, and they're still "jumpy". There isn't a flicker of that punk fire left in their eyes. Even the guy that got away (thanks to his reflexes of sheer, pants-wetting FEAR) won't go near anyone who even vaguely looks like Chris anymore.

The people who saw what Chris Clugston did that night all report the same thing: It was like nothing they'd ever seen before... the quick moves looked *too easy and simple* to have actually worked...

And Yet The Results Were Instant And Devastating Beyond Belief!

What Chris (the most normal-looking and likable guy you'll ever meet) used is the *strangest fighting technique imaginable* — unlike anything you have ever seen before... and yet (for guys like you and me) it is absolutely the most *ruthless and effective fighting style ever devised!*

- Hard-core streetfighters end up being *bullied* by people half their size using this system!
- Trained boxers *can't land a punch!*
- Wrestlers the size of Jabba the Hut get tossed into walls like puppies by women!
- Karate black-belts *never get a chance to strike...* and any *defensive* move they make only gets them hurt more seriously!
- Even the *highest-level* "elite" training in the U.S. military won't help a soldier last beyond a few seconds in hand-to-hand combat against this new, utterly-unique fighting system!

I never, never want to feel what it's like to be on the *other end* of this amazing stuff! Nevertheless, once you see how it's done, you'll see that this new fighting system is:

- **Incredibly easy to master in short time!** (People who have only been *shown* these moves — and never actually *done* them — have nevertheless had tremendous success in "crunch time"... with *devastating results* for their attackers!)
- **So simple you can actually "learn it and forget it"...** and yet it will be there for you whenever you need it! (There are only 6 components to the *entire* system... *less* to remember than most karate schools have for *one fancy kick!*) In fact, you can learn more intense fighting skills in *one short hour* than you'd learn in a *month* of "formal" martial arts!
- **And yet these fighting secrets require no special strength, speed or coordination to get started!** (*Everything* you need, Chris can teach you in about the time it takes to eat a big meal!)

I knew this was something you'd want to know about right away. This new system — Chris calls it "Combat JKD" — is *nothing* like those complicated "official" fighting systems... you know, the kind of "altered self-defense" used by guys in uniforms (who do all their fighting with automatic weapons in desert battlegrounds and jungles, and almost *never* hand-to-hand on pavement or on a porch or from inside a car... where you'll be needing the best skills you can get!). No. This is a *completely different way of fighting in the street*, where you'll likely be if you ever need help.

I think what Chris has is just perfect for guys like you and me. Perfect because you don't need to train much... you can use what

you learn immediately... and (because it's so incredibly simple)...

You Will Face Any "Situation" With A Steel-Eyed Calm Confidence You've Never Experienced Before!

In fact, this "Combat JKD" Chris teaches is *so different* that the results of *real encounters* I've discovered by his students (so far he's only taught about two dozen people) are almost too amazing to be real. For example:

- A young man named Mike Farrell (who *maybe* weighs 160 pounds soaking wet) begged Chris to teach him his fighting secrets after Mike was jumped and beaten senseless by a gang of 20 black guys in a Denny's parking lot. Mike wasn't what you'd call a "good student"... but he learned enough so that, when a 230-lb. truck driver tried to take him down, Mike instinctively reacted with a *single, undefensible move* that sent the monster flying (literally, feet, body, hands off the ground!) backwards and into a steel door. People inside later said it sounded like a canon going off. *There was no need for any other action* — one quick move and the "fight" was over. "Hey," Mike told me, "this stuff really works!"
- A bouncer called "C.C." in a Mid-West bar was pushed outside by 3 drunks who didn't like being told to quiet down. Ordinarily, even an experienced bouncer would have had trouble in that situation, but in this case C.C. mangled the first drunk so quickly, and with such *off-hand viciousness and authority*, that the other two ran off. (A lot of would-be fighters run when faced with the *terrible certainty* of Chris's new fighting methods!)
- Recently, at a local "hip" hangout, a couple of steroid-pumped fraternity boys decided that because they were young, privileged and beefy and this one scraggly-looking guy *wasn't*, he deserved to be beat up. **Wrong** — the frat boys picked on one of Chris's students... and now they don't talk so loud anymore, don't strut like roosters. Two jerks, two simple moves (that didn't look like much, and certainly didn't cause Chris's student to break a sweat)... equals one fight *over with* in a couple of seconds!
- Perhaps *more relevant*, however, than all the stories I could tell you... is this: When Chris recently trained alongside a group of U.S. military Special Forces soldiers... I can't use their names (security reasons), but they represented the top schools of the Army, Navy... he received the *highest compliment* ever paid to a civilian by these hard-ass soldiers. One of the super-elite "18-Zulu" Group sergeants took the others aside (after watching Chris train for a bit) and told these top soldiers to never, ever mess with this guy... because...

All Their Fancy Hand-To-Hand Combat Training Wouldn't Earn Them An Extra Second In A Real, Balls-Out Fight With Chris!

I know what you're thinking — if this "Combat JKD" is so great...

Why Is It Still Such An Astonishing Secret!

The answer's easy. It's *not* secret — this new fighting system simply did not exist until a few

short years ago... and the few people who do know about it are in no hurry to share their unique, viciously-effective secrets!

Chris Clugston — as far as I know — is the *ONLY man in the world* who was in a position to take modern fighting methods... and create new "twists" to them that are so innovative... so amazingly *natural* (you'll never feel awkward or have trouble learning *any* of it)... and so *instantly devastating*... that what he wound up with is an *entirely NEW way to fight*. *None* of his methods would be allowed in the boxing ring, or in a karate match, or in *any* kind of fight...

Where The "Rules" Say You Must At Least Give The Other Guy A Chance To Hit You Back!

This is the most honestly brutal, *bam-BAM*-and-you're-*done* kind of fighting you could ever imagine... and the best part is, it's *especially* easy for "non-fighting" types of people to master quickly!

That's because Chris Clugston spent a *lifetime* searching where no one thought to look for the simplest fighting secrets of the world. Here's the story:

- Streetfighting has been his overriding passion since he was 12 years old. (He earned black belts in 5 different martial arts before he was 20!) He even learned 7 languages so he could travel the world and uncover new styles of fighting and techniques *that hadn't reached the U.S. yet!*
- In East Germany, he worked his way inside the *most elite scientific-research organizations in the world*. The Soviets have training systems for hand-to-hand combat that are *light-years* ahead of us... with amazing techniques...

That Actually "Imprint" Brutally-Effective Fighting Skills Directly Into Your Nervous System!

- It's like *loading a computer with raw data*... so, *without conscious effort*, you can "download" amazingly advanced skills straight into your body's muscles and nerves in an incredibly short time! The result is a *shortcut* in your "learning curve" — which means you can learn in *hours* what others need *years* to master!
- Chris fought professionally for over 8 years (*twice* as long the average pro)... becoming one of the world's most *accomplished* fighters! (He was Number One World Rated in Shoot Boxing for 1991-1992... American Kickboxing Colorado Champ for 2 years... as well as Maximum Total Light Heavy Champ, *despite* fighting in a higher weight class!)

He also won over 50 vicious, no-rules streetfights during this time. This is how he realized how *stupid* it is to master any martial art style that has rules (no kicking in boxing, no strangling in wrestling, no head-punches in karate... and ridiculous time-limits in all of them!). The *real world of streetfighting has no rules!* Even the most brutal-looking "official" fighting systems can actually get you *killed* in the street... and the "confidence" you get from years of dedication to any formal training...

Is A Total Sham!

- And then, about a decade ago, Chris was invited to "try out" with perhaps the most secretive group of people in the U.S. — a small,

almost fanatical “fringe” bunch of fighters who had developed a combat-oriented system that emphasized simple moves... and brutally-quick endings to every fight. (This is about as far from “sport” fighting as you can get!) *No one* gets into this “secret society” without a personal invitation... and the initiation rites are too astonishing to even talk about here.

Nevertheless, this “over-the-top” fighting style was what Chris had been searching for! But because of his travels... his Soviet training... and all his professional insights... plus all the “official” martial art know-how he had... Chris brought something NEW to the table that even these hyper-secret fighters didn’t understand.

What Chris discovered was this: Even the most cutting-edge fighting styles (like the ones used by the military) were still shackled with moves based on centuries-old situations involving fencing, stick-fighting and ritualized combat! These systems, though seemingly “modernized”, still use only about 75% of your maximum fighting ability!

So he really had no choice. He was forced to create an entirely NEW fighting system... one that took the simplest moves of the best styles... and “blended” them with the scientific insights of the last few years to make...

A Natural, Utterly-Simple Fighting System That Can Defeat Any Other Fighter Instantly!

Of course, using this new system is not going to make you any friends. Everyone, it seems, *hates* Chris — martial artists hate him because he shows their formality up as *total B.S.*... boxers and wrestlers hate him because all their neat skills *vanish* before the onslaught his new style throws at them... the military guys hate him because they’re embarrassed that a civilian “aced them out” on the advanced Soviet fighting technology (which they *still* don’t understand)... and other streetfighters hate him because they *can’t strut their stuff* around him.

No one argues with Chris anymore. Not elite military soldiers... not thick, muscled boxers... not murderous street-gang fighters. Because Chris doesn’t like to “talk”, he likes to “walk”. He only has one thing to say to anyone who challenges him:

“Let’s Go Outside And Fight Right Now!”

And, for the last few years, *no one’s* had the guts to *do* that. He as an OPEN CHALLENGE out to *anyone* who thinks they’ve got a better system. Come on out and scrap with me, he says. They refuse. Chris Clugston’s “Combat JKD” has changed streetfighting forever.

You will understand *why* when you see — for yourself — just what this amazing new system is all about. It’s the chance of a lifetime for anyone interested in learning fighting skills that immediately “catapult” you in the *highest levels* of the fighting world, practically overnight!

This is what’s in it for you: Chris has instructed me to give you an opportunity *no one else in the United States* will be offered, *ever*. He wants you to see his new “Combat JKD” system in action... in a complete, “uncensored” form that the rest of the world will never even hear about... learn the basic (simple) moves

yourself... see how it “fits” on you, and if you like it... *and do it all without having to risk a nickel of your own money!*

He’s doing this because, finally, he’s fed up with all the “hype” and hysteria out there about the “military-oriented” fighting systems now flooding the market. He knows his new stuff will make those Navy and Army-sponsored systems look *silly*... with less fuss, less learning time, and more power than anyone would believe. He wants to show *you*... so there will be *no doubt in your mind whatsoever*... that “Combat JKD” has changed fighting forever. And all the secrets of it can all be yours... *as soon as you want it!*

Here’s how it works: A few weeks ago, Chris submitted himself to a grueling week-long video session, where he revealed — *on tape* — all the most closely-held secrets of his new fighting system. It’s the best I’ve ever seen.

Now, I’ve been producing self-defense tapes for several years now — including ones by the guys who train the U.S. Navy SEALs, Army RANGERS, big-city police SWAT teams, and even agents in the FBI and CIA. I’ve used the same film crew for most of these videos. They’ve seen the BEST... but they were *totally unprepared* for what Chris had to show them. My crew couldn’t get enough. (They even stayed after-hours — without pay — just to get a few personal tips from Chris!) I’ve never seen such intense interest by jaded, “seen that, done that” cameramen and sound guys before!

Most of the crew were *NOT* avid karate or self-defense fans themselves... but when they saw Chris in action they all told me, at the same time...

This Was, Finally, The Simple Yet Utterly Effective “Lazy Man’s” Answer For 100% Self-Defense They’d Been Looking For!

They saw — as you will, too — that what Chris teaches can be mastered in the *shortest time humanly possible*... and yet obviously has exactly the kind of vicious fight-ending skills a “normal” man could ever hope for.

You’ll see what I’m talking about. Even if you only “scan” these videos once, you’ll be changed forever! There are nearly 4 hours of tape here, on two power-packed video cassettes. It’s information that was completely unavailable just a few weeks ago, to anyone except the few “insiders” who knew Chris personally. Yet, with the advantages of slow-motion, rewinding and multiple camera angles (we used a state-of-the-art recording studio down in San Diego)... you actually get a better and more complete education, in a *shorter* time, than any of Chris’s personal students!

You’ll get it *cheaper*, too. Chris only takes a few students on every year, and they pay outrageous fees to get their personal education in “Combat JKD”. It’s an enormous risk, financially, for him to offer his secrets so inexpensively to you... but, frankly, he’s so angry at all the bogus fighting information out there, he doesn’t care about his high fees anymore. This is now a matter of pride... as a man, you can *easily understand* where Chris is coming from.

Look — here’s just a “taste” of what you’re about to learn:

- How to use the *billion-dollar secret training technology* developed by the Soviets (which put their athletes light-years ahead of anyone else) to put your fighting coordination and speed “over the top”... even if you haven’t got an athletic bone in your body! ■■ Why you should *never* use your fist in a real street fight! (Even trained fighters make this crucial mistake... and risk serious injury that’s 100% avoidable!) There’s a *better* way to do more damage, *quicker*, with *no risk of hurting yourself* at all! ■■ A “lazy man’s” training technique that’s so simple, you can master devastating moves while watching TV! ■■ How to “expand” your 5 senses so you see *everything* happening around you, *all the time* — it’s like having eyes in the back of your head! (This trick can save you enormous amounts of danger and trouble... and make you virtually *undefeatable* in any head-to-head fight!) ■■ Secret “2-minute” training techniques (that’s all it takes!) that are guaranteed to make you look ridiculous... but which will pump up your fighting ability (and confidence) 1,000% almost overnight! ■■ New (and simple) exercises that actually *install* animal quickness and viciousness *directly* into your muscles and nerves... leaving it *locked* there until you need to spring it loose! (Go from calm to *frightening* in a split second, whenever you choose... or whenever you’re threatened!) ■■ The “energy conservation” rules of fighting almost *every* street fighter breaks... leaving you a devastating opening *10 seconds* into any fight no one else will see! ■■ How to use the “two second” stalking test to see how trained your opponent is... and *what* he’s trained in! (Crucial information to end the fight when you choose!) ■■ The hyper-advanced new fighting stance that *negates all others*... putting you in a position to keep boxers, wrestlers, and even the dirtiest fighters on the planet off-balance until you decide to strike! (They’ll *never* get “settled” enough to hit you!) ■■ How to *never again* feel uncontrollable emotion (or even sweaty palms) in a tight situation... and how to channel all your adrenaline into purposeful energy that will charge you up like a *bomb*! ■■ Why your *best fighting moves* will come completely *naturally*... forget all that martial art nonsense about needing to train for years to do complicated moves! (The best fighters in the world use only a few simple moves... and routinely knock around karate dudes like they were children!) ■■ How to use the devastating “pop up” push taken from the way tigers hunt in the wild... so effective a *90-lb woman* can use it to send a Sumo wrestler tumbling! ■■ What to watch when you’re eight feet apart (it’s NOT his eyes — a terrible mistake most fighters make that gets them hurt)... and what to watch inside the two feet “crunch time” zone... to keep you a precious step ahead of even *superbly-trained fighters*! ■■ The number one “Dirty Trick” of fighters who want to *decisively* end a fight as soon as possible! ■■ A ridiculously-simple two-finger takedown that will instantly bring any opponent, of any size and weight, to his knees! ■■ Leverage secrets (known *only* by students of Clugston’s) that multiply every

pound of your weight ten times, giving you "Godzilla" advantages against even a much heavier opponent! ■■ How to correctly use the "scissor choke" — which 99 of 100 fighters do so incorrectly it actually puts them at risk (instead of providing the fight-ending certainty you can have doing it right!) ■■ A 1,000-year-old move (which all but a handful of martial artists never learn about) that will end the fight instantly once you get to the ground... even faster than the most famous ju-jitsu move! ■■ How to handle worst-case scenarios: when you're surprised, caught in completely undesirable places, outnumbered... and worse! ■■ How to easily and effectively destroy your opponent's "wheels"... and why the standard karate knee kicks are doomed to fail 7 of 8 times (leaving you exposed and ready to go down)! Chris's understanding of "knee take down" fighting is unsurpassed by any other fighter on the planet... and he can show you how to never be without this fight-ending "out"! ■■ How to master the unbelievably-devastating secrets of the "Axe Kick"! ■■ Instant arm-locks that disable your opponent and let you decide what's next! (Including how to master the most painful and effective arm lock a human can suffer!) ■■ The secret of correct head butts — it's not what you've seen the military guys doing! (If you ever use the wrong method, you'll split your head open... proof most of those military guys have never been in a real hand-to-hand fight!) ■■ The one take-down move you will have open to you every time a attacker strikes... so simple, so easy to remember, it's like walking around with a cocked and loaded gun! ■■ The "can't lose" kick that does incredible damage even when you miss completely! (One of many "fail safe" moves Chris teaches!) ■■ Head-on moves that will separate you from the boys in the first second of the fight! (And send even the craziest attacker running!) ■■ How an untrained fighter tips himself off! ■■ Your single best "one answer" move in any confrontation — if you never learn anything else from Chris, this move will assure you survive almost any one-on-one fight you get into... even with trained fighters! (And it's so simple you don't even have to practice it very much!)

And more... including details so "sensitive" I wouldn't dare list them here for you!

PLUS... you get a very special FREE bonus that Chris wants you to have and KEEP

as his gift. It's a hour-long video he shot about knife-fighting — and, just like everything else he teaches, it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. Chris has been in knife fights... and he learned crucial new information that no other knife-fighter on the planet even has a clue about! No one wants to get in a knife fight... because your chances of surviving without getting cut are not good. But the knife has become such a common "tool" of the criminal attackers, you absolutely need this advanced look at fighting with knives... including bare-hands against a knife, and knife-against-knife.

The hyper-advanced fighting skills you learn from Chris have already helped other people just like you... in the most dangerous, out-of-control situations you're ever likely to face in the street! You can't walk around in a suit of armor, bristling with guns and knives and hoping you "look" threatening enough to avoid trouble. However, with Chris's help...

You Can Have A "Built In" Protection Device More Powerful Than Guns and Knives... Your Own "Inner Bodyguard" Trained To Devastate Anyone Who Attacks You!

People who have experienced Chris's training methods report a deep and permanent change in their lives. It's as if Chris has helped install another person inside you... a stronger, more vicious and unafraid warrior who won't hesitate a second to eliminate (with all the force necessary) any danger to you!

This is not like the training terrorists go through, however — that turns them into savage beasts that cannot be absorbed back into civilization again. Far from it... Chris's training techniques leave you normal and centered (much like a fighting master should be)... your same old lovable self...

Until The Time You NEED To Unleash That Brutal Warrior Inside You!

It's not even a conscious process! Imagine having little danger-sensing antennae (like a Geiger counter) inside you that leap into action even before you consciously understand you are in trouble!

Imagine having the inner peace and confidence to be relaxed anywhere in the world... knowing

your training and mastery has placed you among the most viciously-effective fighters on the planet if trouble occurs!

You can't buy that kind of confidence for any amount of money...

But You CAN Earn It... With Chris's Help!

So how much is Chris's video course going for? It's cheap — less than you'd pay for two lousy lessons at the local karate school... less than a big meal for two at a fancy restaurant... less, even, than a decent pair of cowboy boots! Ask anyone who has trained with Chris... they'll tell you how foolish it is to quibble over a few dollars when the result is learning the most effective fighting skills on the planet!

Here's what you need to do now: Call 1-800-294-9602 and tell the operator you want to order Chris Clugston's "Combat JKD" video course, Dept. CG-51. It's important to tell them that code, too — don't forget! You can use your credit card. The price for this amazing 2-video tape package (plus your FREE bonus tape on knife fighting!) is just \$97 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling. (Total: \$101.50) Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order (payable to Underground Streetfighters Association), simply fill out the enclosed Priority Order Form and send it with your payment to the USA offices at 606 East Acequia, Visalia, CA 93292. Either way, your tapes will be rushed out to you by return mail as soon as we receive your order.

But remember — you get Chris's personal guarantee on this: Watch the tapes, at your own pace, in your own home, and learn everything he has... for a full 3 months without risk. Treat the tapes as hard as you like — they're yours for the entire 3 months. If, at the end of that time, you aren't 100% convinced you've just been training in the most advanced fighting skills you could ever have, simply return the 2 tapes and Chris will see that you get an immediate refund of your purchase price. No questions asked. No nonsense... and Chris will still consider you a friend. He respects you enough to let you decide for yourself.

But — even if you decide to return the tapes for a refund, you can still KEEP the bonus tape on Knife-Fighting (worth the price of the entire package just by itself)... as Chris's gift to you, just for giving his videos a look.

That's more than fair... and if you're serious about learning fighting skills you can use, wherever you find yourself in trouble... this is a must-have course! So far, only a handful of "insider" students (with deep pockets) have gotten this kind of acute attention from Chris.

Here's your chance... if you believe you've got what it takes... to become a master of that same secret fighting technique. Call now.

Sincerely,



Robert Pierce
President,
Underground Streetfighters Association

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1-800-294-9602 (Ask For Department CG-51)**

YES! This sounds exactly like the kind of fighting system I've been searching for — easy to learn, simple to execute... and so brutally-effective that my confidence levels will soar beyond anything I've ever dreamed! Plus, I have nothing to lose by ordering now — with your 100% Money-Back No-Risk Guarantee, I get a full 3 months to use these videos as my own... and if I'm not completely and utterly satisfied, all I have to do is return them for a total refund of my purchase price! That's a great deal. So please rush me the 2-video set (over 3 hours of intense fighting secrets!)... plus my FREE bonus tape on knife-fighting (which I get to KEEP as a gift even if I decide later to return the rest of the set)! Here is my address and how I wish to pay:

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: Enclosed is my Check or Money Order
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Continued from page 24

4. Even if you HAD sights, you wouldn't hit many point targets swinging from a chute, and probably not a lot more on the ground firing from the hip — suppressive fire is the best you could hope for

5. This technique for real-life application would require a lot of such fine-tuning, in the case of the sling perhaps one of Nomex. Maybe a better technique might be to drop several medic bags full of frag well ahead of your landing.

6. You're right, but then any combat jump would be dangerous.

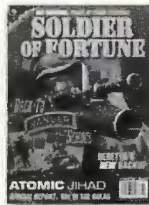
7. Right again: We killed all the jumpers and lost the film when we tried to do this at night.

8. The Russians even drop armor with the crew in them (but as far as I know don't try to fire on the way down).

SOF editorial staff agrees with your closing observation.

why people can't separate that the mag is for no-bullshit reporting on issues that affect our lives, and that the show is for entertainment only. Keep up the excellent work you have been doing.

Larry
via e-mail



First To Write

Your November 1997 "Command Guidance" editorial by Robert K. Brown mentions the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation, which straddles the U.S./Canadian border in upstate New York. You point out that the reservation is used as a base for smuggling operations.

I bring this up now, over a year after it first appeared in your pages, because the same story appears today in the *New York Times*, in a story by David K. Chen entitled, "China to Chinatown, via Canada." The contraband this time is illegal aliens.

Apparently, our chief law enforcement officer, the impeached president, has not yet adequately addressed this problem.

Keep up the good work.

Bill Strickland
via e-mail

Revenge Or Karma?

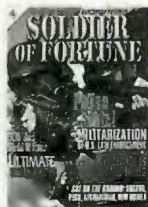
I have heard the impeachment process characterized as "a vast right-wing conspiracy" and a "Republican coup d'état" but now that our "Hapless Boy President" has been impeached I think it should be referred to by its rightful name ... Ron Brown's Revenge!

Michael A. Pacer
Glendora, Calif.

More Humor

I think an occasional article like the one Thomas Chittum wrote for you guys back in 1991 or 92 entitled "Day of the Jackass" — about his time with the Dutch International Volunteers in Croatia during their war for independence from the Chetniks — was a hoot. I think it is worth running again after all this time — or try to find authors who crank out an occasionally amusing story. Don't get me wrong, I will subscribe regardless, in fact I just renewed via your website. Anyway, just a suggestion — you guys do a great job and obviously you know what sells and besides, I have yet to be disappointed.

Rich Hall
Reston, Va. ✂



Mags And Shows

Love the mag, enjoy the show. Just finished reading the bashing of TV show in the new issue. I can't understand

U.S.M.C. Fighting/Utility Knives



KA-BAR Knives

- An American Legend - the Knife Marines depended on during WWII
- Oval handle constructed of compacted leather disks
- High carbon steel (1095) blade, black epoxy powder coated, buff polished, razor sharp edge, HRC 56-58
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KYDEX SHEATH FOR U.S.M.C. FIGHTING/UTILITY KNIFE #1216

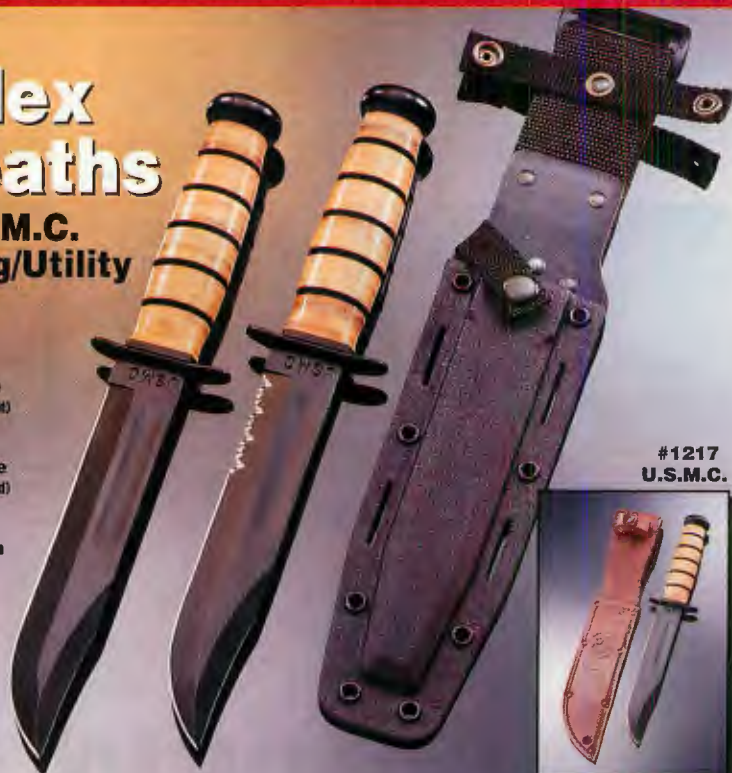
- All weather performance, impact corrosion and abrasion resistant
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Kydex Sheaths for U.S.M.C. Fighting/Utility Knives

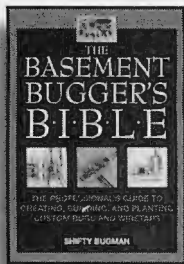
#1217 Straight Edge (Leather sheath included)

#1218 Serrated Edge (Leather sheath included)

#1216 Kydex Sheath (sold separately)



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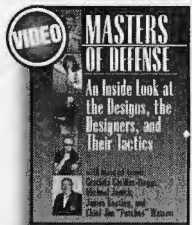


THE BASEMENT BUGGER'S BIBLE

The Professional's Guide to Creating, Building, and Planting Custom Bugs and Wiretaps

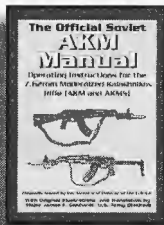
by *Shifty Bugman*

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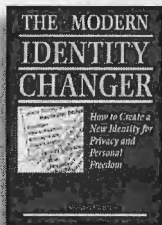
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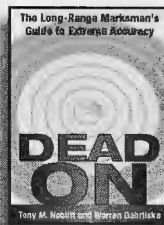
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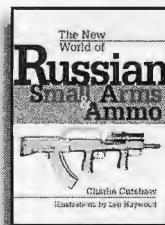
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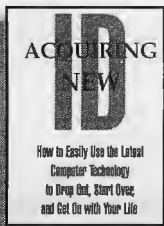
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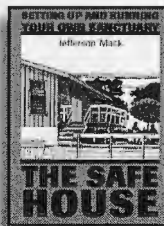
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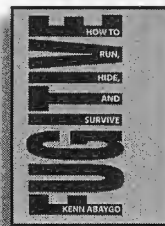
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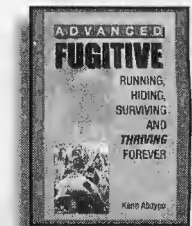
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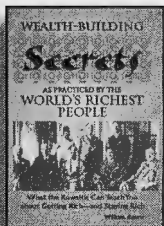
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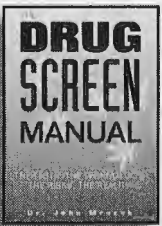
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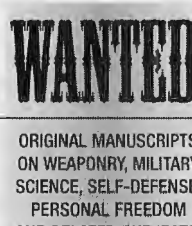
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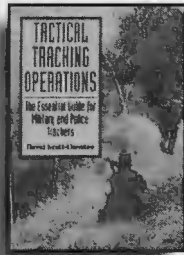
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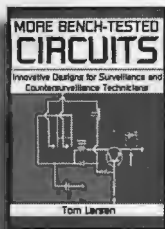
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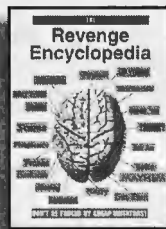
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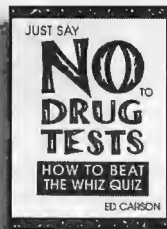


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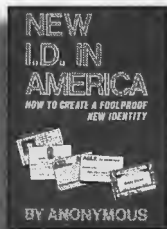
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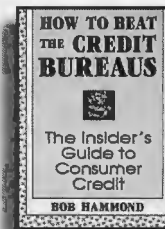
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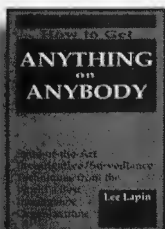
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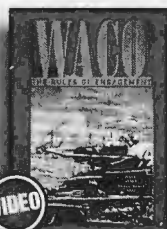
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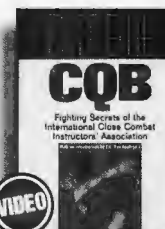
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I Was There

Text & Photos by Marty Kufus

Bubbas In A Boat

Filthy brown water lapped against our frogman-black inflatable boat. This was our first real rescue mission, during what would become the worst flood in local history. Only four months earlier our rural county had been gripped by a drought and the threat of wildfire, like the rest of South Texas. But when it did rain, it damned well poured.

And you know things are doubly bad when you have to go rescue some rescuers.

It was 0230 on 18 October 1998. The Zodiac boat carried five of us, all volunteer firemen and, additionally, members of the Wilson County Volunteer Emergency Response Team (ERT). Raindrops beaded on our yellow helmets; rescue ropes and extra life vests and helmets covered the floor of the 10-man boat. We moved slowly in the Cibolo Creek's flood just outside the small town of LaVernia.

I was braced against the big tube of the Zodiac's port bow, holding my paddle upside down in the water to probe for hidden obstacles. Beside me, paramedic Scott Akin scanned with a large flashlight to spot debris or any low-hanging power lines.

The last time I was in a Zodiac at night, I thought, drifting back 14 years, was in the Florida phase of Army Ranger School — that search-and-destroy against "Comandante Jose" and his Marxist guerrillas.

Something underwater grabbed my paddle. "Fence!" I yelled. The boat shook. Team leader Edwin Baker immediately reacted — without swallowing his Copenhagen snuff — and cut the throttle. An unseen object, probably a fence post, had scraped the heavy-fabric keel then banged against the outboard motor's lower unit. This was no place to get hung up — a mile from dry land, in 6 feet of water with a current of 15 to 20 mph.

"We're okay," Edwin said after a few long seconds.

Big-city firemen might consider us to be "bubbas" — small-town guys — but we had a good boat which we had trained with. And even if it had been punctured, the multichambered Zodiac very likely would have stayed afloat. (Months earlier, a *Soldier Of Fortune* colleague of mine, east Texas native and retired Navy SEAL Larry Bailey, alerted me to the possibility of a good deal on a Zodiac for our newly created ERT. His acquaintance at Zodiac of

North America was former Marine Recon, a helluva good guy who later approved our purchase of a 1988 SpecOps prototype: a model F420 that had been used only as a demonstrator.)

Edwin slowly opened the throttle on the little 15-horsepower motor. Scott, myself and the two other guys — Mark Lerma of Stockdale's volunteer fire department (whose members included Edwin and Scott) and Nick Hency from the Eagle Creek VFD — resumed our lookout. Objects — half-ton bales of hay — drifted by in the current.

Ahead, on the other side of a flooded house and barn, two flashlights were being waved skyward. Two high-axle trucks of the LaVernia VFD were stranded in this shit. Perched atop them were 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Billy Bob Bruner and 11 other firemen in life vests. Around midnight they had been sent out to

evacuate some local folks who had ignored earlier warnings to evacuate — but then punched 911 howling for help when the flood hit.

LaVernia's off-road trucks had handled high water before and the firemen did not lack for courage. But Mother Nature can be a tricky bitch.

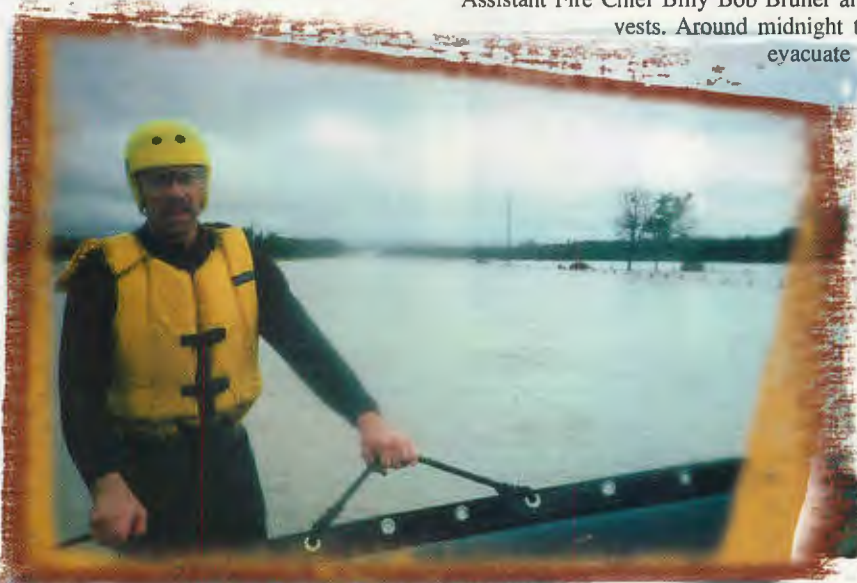
Now, despite the LaVernia fire chief's urgent requests, no rescue helicopters — Army or civilian — were able to fly in the rainy darkness. Things were no better in San

Antonio, 16 miles northwest.

A massive storm in south-central Texas dumped 15 or more inches of rain in Bexar County alone, creating a killer flood that swept through the "Alamo City" along the San Antonio River and Salado and Almos creeks. Twelve hours later portions of Wilson County began to flood.

What timing. Just that week my parent organization, the Floresville VFD, had sent me to a swiftwater-rescue course in Texas taught by the California-based Rescue 3 International.

I was wearing a wetsuit under my life vest, ankle-high sneakers, a rescue whistle on a cord, and a Ka-Bar "Next Generation" knife in a Kydex scabbard. Not that I wanted to get out of the Zodiac for a rescue swim: oil, chemicals, raw sewage, trees, household and farm debris, dead animals, large clumps of pissed-off fire ants, probably some rattlesnakes and copperheads and God knows what else were being swept along by this water.



Former SOF Assistant Editor Marty Kufus (above), now a newspaper editor and ERT stalwart in South Texas. The ERT's Zodiac boat crews brought in 24 people — and two dogs.



Continued on page 69

Omega PROVEN ground

by Don McLean

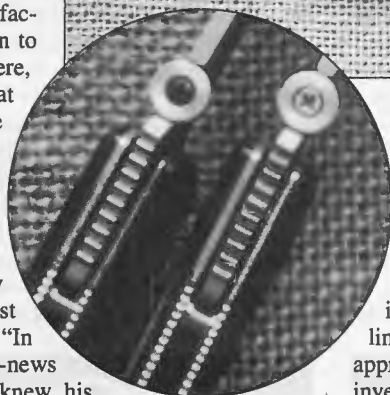
Emerson CQC7-A & -B

Knock-offs, spin-offs and variations on a theme all must have an original fountainhead. The genre now known as "tactical folders" can largely trace its lineage to the skillful design work of Ernest R. Emerson, whose licensed works have generated a considerable cash flow for the licensees and whose knock-offs have provided a great deal of work for the copyists. Many of the currently marketed knives showing Emerson's design influence are good gear, and many more are not. We do not deal with less-than-satisfactory tools in this column other than to acknowledge that they are out there, but would observe in passing that even among the best of the Emerson facsimiles we have yet to see any better than the original.

Good news for the hard-use cutters among us is that Ernest Emerson now has his own designs in production in his own facility and is direct-marketing the most advanced models of his designs. "In production" is the operative good-news phrase here, because those who knew his knives were willing to wait for them — but sometimes had a lengthy wait.

Even an excellent design usually goes through an evolutionary process of improvement, and Emerson's CQC7 is no exception. In its new iteration from its own factory, the CQC7 features an ergonomic radius on all outside edges. It is held together with common fasteners so it may be disassembled if necessary, as for cleaning, with the tools you will probably have at hand. The clip may be readily moved to either end of the grip to accommodate your individual work patterns, as there are pre-drilled and tapped holes at either end; all assembly and mounting screws mate with holes tapped directly in the titanium liner, not into the grip scales. Any pinch-points have been eliminated.

That is why Emerson's CQC7 is better, but in case you have never owned an Emerson, we should review the reasons why it was so good to begin with. Emerson builds innovative yet straight-forward, strong, no-bull tools. They do everything they are designed to do, do it better than almost any other, and will do it for a lifetime. The reason they do is a result of the triad for any superior tool or weapon: design, materials and workmanship. The basic design has become universally familiar, but the nuance of design is important. The thumb button, as an example, is far more facile a blade opener than any thumb stud or thumb hole we have ever used. The ATS-34 stainless blade rides precisely and smoothly on bearing washers,



not simply between the liner or grip scales. Thus, a nudge with the tip of your thumb and a flick of the wrist and the CQC7 is ready to go to work. An observer would think you had an automatic opener.

There is simply more put into the Emerson than its illegitimate offspring. We do not do comparative tests in this column, but just for grins we weighed the CQC7-B at 4.6 ounces; its closest look-alike weighed 3.8 ounces. Bear in mind that the liners are not thin brass or aluminum but are titanium and you'll appreciate the fact that the extra weight in this design has been invested in making the overall design stronger. And speaking of strength, the grip scales are of G-10 epoxy-filled fiberglass.

With an overall length of 8 inches, the CQC7-A features 3.3 inches of a partly serrated, wide-radius, drop-point blade. It came as sharp as any knife I ever took out of a box, and it kept a good edge through a pile of natural and synthetic line and cardboard, then all the usually anticipated abuse such as copper wire, canvas, aluminum sheet and the like. It is factory ground from one side, with the reverse lightly honed, making it a fast blade to touch up with a diamond hone and rod. The CQC7-B has "Tanto" blade geometry that gives it a very strong point for thrusting or for when an emergency dictates you must risk a fine instrument for use as a pry-bar. On both knives, the top rear of the blade that is exposed when open, and the liners and liner-lock on the opposite side, are all notched to provide a good grip and keep one's hand off the blade on strong thrusts. Both have a lanyard hole in the butt, useful indeed for jumping or working over or under water. They are available in either a matte bead-blasted finish, or black Teflon-coated.

The CQC-7 is a mature design that tempts one to characterize it "as good as it gets." But, we might have said that about the original version ... and master designer Ernest Emerson still has his drawing board.

Contact Emerson Knives, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 4235, Redondo Beach, CA 90278-8525; phone: 310-542-3050; fax: 310-793-8730.

The Elite Series, Micro KAHR

Jeff Cooper once wrote that pocket pistols occupied a low cultural status among handguns, since they didn't do anything really well except stay out of the way.

The biggest complaint with pocket pistols is the fact that although they are easily to conceal and easy to carry, they are most often chambered in ineffective calibers that are poor, if not terrible, choices for self-defense applications.

One exception to this rule is the new Kahr Arms Elite series Micro Kahr. This little pistol is no larger in profile than what was formerly considered diminutive even by .25 ACP standards. With a length of only 5-1/2 inches, a height of 3-7/8 inches (not counting the sights) and a weight of 22 ounces, this little pocket pistol proves to be an exception to the rule because it also holds six rounds in the magazine, plus one in the chamber, of 9x19mm Parabellum ammunition.

That's not a misprint. The Micro-Kahr is not a .32 or a .380, but a true 9x19mm caliber pistol. While many believe big bore is better (and for good reason) there are times when even a .45 just won't work.

During a recent holiday vacation in a warm climate, I found the test Micro-Kahr to be just the ticket while strolling a white sandy beach during the morning hours with my family. The Micro-Kahr rode conveniently in the left front pocket of my cargo shorts and was compact enough that it did not betray its presence through a distinguishable printed outline.

One of the biggest concealment challenges with the increasingly popular shrouded-hammer snub-nose revolver is their overall length. Comparing the Micro-Kahr against the standard small frame revolver reveals the Micro-Kahr is three quarters of an inch shorter at the heel of the butt, an area that is most likely to be exposed in trousers with short pockets.

All of the Kahr pistols operate as DAO semiautomatics and uti-

lize a Browning-style cam lug under the barrel to drop the barrel during recoil. The barrel locks to the slide by means of a chamber block like that found with the Sig or Glock pistols. The barrel length, obviously, is short measuring only 2-3/4 inches, but with Kahr's polygonal rifling these short tubes lose far less velocity than expected.

Ten rounds of 147 gr Black Hills JHP fired from the test MK9 averaged 915 fps. Ten rounds of Remington Golden Saber 147 gr averaged 951 fps and 10 rounds of Federal Personal Defense 135 gr Hydra Shok averaged 986 fps.

Shooting the Elite Series Micro Kahr demonstrated one of the most accurate handguns in the pocket pistol classification that I've ever tested. On an indoor range it was not difficult, nor taxing, to keep all hits inside the headbox of a reduced size B-27 style target at 50 feet.

The Elite Series of Kahr pistols differ from their regular production brethren in a number of ways. The first is that the stainless steel slides and frames on the Elite Series are polished to a mirror brightness. Instead of the dot matrix style engraving found on the production Kahr pistols, laser engraving is used on the Elite series and the attractiveness of the bright polished slide & frame plus the smooth laser engraving serves this new pistol well.

The biggest difference, however, between the Elite Series and the standard production Kahr is the trigger on the Elite Series is machined from solid stainless steel. The geometry has been changed and the result is a shortened trigger stroke. I was surprised when the Elite Series MK9 was compared to a production MK9 and learned the trigger pull on the Elite Series was two pounds heavier than the regular production Micro-Kahr. It isn't noticeable when tested without comparison, but few can complain about a 10-pound double-action trigger pull even on a small pistol like this.

The test pistol was equipped with Trijicon three-dot glow-in-the-



The Elite Series version of the Kahr MK9 is an improved version of the Kahr Micro pistol in 9x19mm caliber. Some of the improvements are cosmetic like the highly polished stainless steel slide and the laser engraving, but the Elite Series Kahr pistols also feature changed trigger geometry for an improved trigger action. The magazine capacity is 6+1, while the longer spare magazine holds seven rounds.



The Kahr MK9 is a true pocket pistol with an overall length of no more than 5 1/2 inches. The MK9 is easier to conceal than universally accepted snubnose revolver, even the shrouded hammer examples, because the MK9 is almost 3/4-inch shorter at the butt or heel of the grip than the five-shot revolver. As seen here it is not much longer than the author's Wenger Spyderco folding knife.

dark sights. This is an extra cost option, but the factory sights are perfectly satisfactory. The standard sights consist of a white dot ramp blade front sight and a rear sight that is a triangular blade with a vertical rectangle under the u-notch. It works, but if you can, order the extra cost tritium Trijicon sights for use in low-light conditions.

Kahr pistols have been approved for use by the New York City Police Department because they have meet their stringent standards for a police duty pistol. Many are critical of the 9x19mm round, while at the same time accepting a small frame .38 snub-nose revolver as a reasonable back-up gun. The beauty of the Kahr MK9

is it is smaller than the revolver, of more or less equal power and holds two more rounds. Once you experience Kahr's reliability it leaves you asking, "what more needs to be said?"

Pocket pistols do have a history of doing nothing well except staying out of the way. The Kahr Elite Series MK9 is a definite exception and I found it more than satisfactory as part of my warm climate vacation beach apparel.

For further information, contact: Kahr Arms, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 220, Blauvelt, NY 10913; phone: 914-353-5996; fax: 914-353-7833.

— Frank W. James

B350 MiniBuck Tool

The scope of this column does not include the test and evaluation of jewelry, but we're making an exception here, as the MiniBuck Tool merely looks like you'd find it only in a jewelry store. Whereas some multi-tools are a tool-box in a hand-ful, this intriguing miniature is a contingency tool-box in microcosm. The assortment of useful implements are not the type nor dimension you'd find on an oil rig, but there's not a paramedic, fly-fisherman nor traveling gent who won't use this several times a day if it's in his pocket. And as we've observed before if it's in his pocket is the operative phrase here. "Wish I'd a brung my" is the standard lament of the man with a fishhook in his ear, a sliver in his thumb, birdshot in his butt and the watermelon, and nothing but a Barlow knife in his pocket.

But wearing a multi-tool in a holster with dress clothes makes you look like the geek who has a pocket protector and 19 pens just in case someone needs one. You know, like the fixit-hero business is a little slow so you're advertising. Better to be the closet tool-man with something hidden in your pocket (after all, if you advertise, you may end up with commerce you don't want when fat Aunt Maude's zipper fails).

The minuscule MiniBuck Tool has a lanyard-ring hole on the butt, so you have the option of wearing it on your key ring, but it comes with a snug synthetic boot to protect a gentleman's pocket, and in the pocket it is no more noticeable than a pen-knife or a pair of nail clippers.

Nail trimming and knife functions are included in the MiniBuck Tool, of course, but it includes a very good array of other useful utensils — implements not merely well-chosen, but surprisingly robust and functional. Like its big brothers, the MiniBuck is first a pair of folding pliers. Precisely investment cast from a stainless alloy, they are exposed by rotating the handles parallel to each other. The tool opens



smoothly, and the pliers are of a thin, compact needlenose configuration. These are not a lineman's tool, but have strength to spare for chores such as removing fish hooks, work in tight quarters, holding a sail needle, or any repair from broken zippers to making your Zebco spinning reel Y2K compliant, or field repair of firearms.

Within the handles of the basic plier tool are more than the usual suspects: One grip houses a small razor-sharp 1-1/2-inch spearpoint blade, a fingernail tool that includes a very fine "abrasive" strip made by EDM stippling, and a small square-bar screwdriver at the tip of a cap lifter. The other grip holds a small but serious scissors, a rounded-flat screwdriver for small Phillips screws, and the best small tweezers we've ever seen on any such tool. Weak tweezers that collapse when you finally get a firm grip on that sliver are worse than no tweezers: The MiniBuck's are strong and come to a finely matched point. Although small, the scissors are robust, tight and sharp. They wor-

ried their way through a pistol belt and still cut paper. The screwdriver, in essence half of a Phillips, will do fine for light work such as snugging-up loose screws on a camera until you get back to the shop.

The various implements are highly polished, and the grips and pliers are matte finished. All stainless, the tool is readily cleaned (we opened it up and ran it through the dish washer). The MiniBuck tool is not merely done small — it's done right. And at 2 1/2 inches long, 3/8-inch wide and a scant 3/16-inch thick, it's a good thing the MiniBuck is stainless, because there will be a lot of these go through the laundry, unnoticed in a pocket.

Not that you'll ever need it, but the MiniBuck comes with the usual Buck lifetime guarantee. Chuck Buck, y'all done good!

Buck Knives, Inc., Dept. SOF, 1900 Weld Blvd., El Cajon, CA 92920; phone: 800-326-2825; fax: 800-729-2825; web site at www.buckknives.com



B-1s Over Baghdad

America's Premier Bomber Draws First Blood

by Dale B. Cooper

courtesy author



Senior Airman Mike Parks, a crew chief from Dyess Air Force Base, talks with a B-1 crew just before a sortie.



Weapons load crewmember, Airman Todd Sturz secures a bomb-lift strap to an MK82 general purpose bomb before uploading into a B-1 bomber from Dyess.

DOB photo by 1st Sgt Paul G. Laughnum

"We

had been in Iraq about 25 minutes by the time we got to the target area, but we had not seen a single sign of enemy resistance." Other members of Captain Jeffery Hoyt's crew shared the same uneasy feeling as their aircraft commander.

Hoyt's co-pilot, Lieutenant Robert Mankus wondered what the Iraqis were waiting for. So did Hoyt's Defensive Systems Officer.

Captain Jason Xiques detected the presence of Iraqi early warning radar and height finders when their swing-wing B-1 bomber and the another Lancer were still out over the Persian Gulf.

"I was nervous, because it was too quiet inbound," said Xiques who kept saying over and over again, "It's too quiet, entirely too quiet."

Captain Gordon Greaney, the OSO (Offensive Systems Officer) also wondered why the Iraqis had not started shooting.

"The Iraqis could have fired SAMs at the bombers, but I just figured the Surface to Air Missile sites didn't want to commit suicide by turning on their radars and getting a HARM [High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile] down their throat," said Greaney.

A chapter in military aviation history was about to be written in Iraqi blood as the brace of bombers, code-named "SLAM 1-1 and SLAM 1-2," streaked toward the target at more than 600 miles an hour. The Lancers were about to become the first B-1 bombers to drop bombs in anger.

"The last thing I was worried about was the crew, because I trusted them to do their job," said Hoyt, a former B-52 pilot who saw action during the Gulf War. "But I was worried if we would have any trouble flying over Arab countries on the way, would we be able to hook up with the Navy assets, would we have any trouble getting a hold of their command and control — just the normal things you have to deal with on a mission like this."

As far as history was concerned, Capt Hoyt was keenly aware that the B-1 had

never "dropped" on a country without its permission before, but the historical significance of the mission became blurred as he looked through his night vision goggles and watched the skyline begin to light up with flashes from F-14 Tomcats and F/A-18 Hornets suppressing enemy air defenses with precision guided munitions and HARMs.

The lead "Bone, as the B-1 is affectionately called by the men and women who fly and maintain it, was from the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City, S.D.

It and its sister ship from the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, Texas were tasked to take out a key Iraqi military installation; a Republican Guard barracks on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Capt. Hoyt's bomber was the "Number Two" aircraft on the opening night of last December's punishing air raids on Iraq; raids that claimed between 600 and 2,000 casualties according to the latest bomb damage assessment by General Anthony Zinni, commander in chief of US Central Command.

The target was the Al Kut Barracks, a series of two dozen buildings that housed members of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard on the northwest side of Baghdad.

"There it is," said "Spanky" Mankus as "Ax1" Hoyt rolled out and started making a right turn to the target. But Hoyt didn't mind the anti-aircraft artillery fire that filled the sky about 10 miles from the target.

A few days after returning to Dyess from their historic bombing mission in Iraq, "Ax1" Hoyt, "Spanky" Mankus, "Guvner" Greaney and "X-man" Xiques talked candidly with *SOF* about their separate, multi-axis attack that left the barracks complex in ruins.

View From The Left Seat

"I remember the small caliber stuff coming up at us in snakelike whips of AAA like the stuff that lit up Baghdad during the opening night of Operation Desert Storm. We also saw the bigger stuff bursting below us.

"Not knowing what was going to happen was nerve wracking for me," said Hoyt

who had been under fire before when his B-52 bombed Iraqi artillery positions in northern Kuwait during the Gulf war. But as a young Lieutenant, Hoyt didn't know enough to be nervous or scared.

Having studied intelligence reports for years, Capt. Hoyt knew what the Iraqis had in their arsenal and what they could do to him, but none of it came close to hitting him.

The strike package, which consisted of Navy Hornets, Tomcats and Prowlers and B-1s, knew where most of Iraq's strategic (SAM) defenses were located, but the pilots who flew the strike aircraft didn't know where mobile tactical defensive units were.

Some of the threats the B-1s were flying against were to have been struck earlier by different waves of cruise missiles, but Hoyt and the other aircraft commander from Ellsworth didn't know the results of those strikes.

"So there was a lot of anxiety among the crew," said Hoyt, "because we were not sure what kind of hostile environment we were entering." Was Hoyt afraid?

Not in the sense of being blinded by fear, but Hoyt was afraid of not getting lined up on the target, and preventing his WSO, pronounced "Wizzo" from finding the target. Hoyt was also afraid of not being able to maneuver correctly in case something (SAM) came up at them.

DOD photo by Senior Airman Sean M. White



courtesy author

(above) The crew of Slam 1-2, a B-1 bomber, made history by bombing Al Kut Barracks northwest of Baghdad From left to right are: Lieutenant Robert Mankus, co-pilot; Captain Gordon Greaney, offensive systems operator; Captain Jason Xiques, Defensive Systems Officer; and Captain Jeffery Hoyt, aircraft commander (pilot). (left) Slam 1-2 lands at Thumrait Air Base in Oman shortly after daylight on 19 December, after attack on Republican Guard Barracks.

View From The Right Seat

As the co-pilot, Lt. Mankus sat on the right side of the cockpit. Like the other crewmembers, Mankus knew from intel briefings that the Triple A was going to be below them.

When his bomber made a tight turn to the right toward the target, Mankus was also relieved to finally see AAA lighting up the sky ahead.

"It was like the game had finally started," said the Michigan State graduate, who has been in B-1s only two years.

"It was an awesome sight," he said, watching the fireworks through night vision goggles. "NVGs accentuate AAA. They make things appear brighter. Balls of fire coming up at us looked bigger and brighter through the goggles."

The Iraqis not only opened up on the invaders 10 miles out from the target; they also continued firing 10 miles past the target, but the greatest fear was surface to air missiles.

"My biggest fear was getting directly over the target and SAMs start coming up at us," said Mankus who also feared not being able to outrun the Mach 2.5 missiles and escape their deadly envelope.

B-1s are not defenseless. "X-man" and other DSOs have a bag of electronic tricks they can employ, including chaff they can dispense and flares they can pop to draw away enemy missiles.

"We can also jam enemy radar with our ECM [Electronic Countermeasure] package," said Xiques, "and hopefully with all three of these systems, we can defeat the threat long enough to get out of his 'WEZ,' the enemy's weapons employment zone."

For Mankus who grew up in some of the nation's premier white tail deer country in Michigan, going into Iraqi air defenses was like going deer hunting for the first time with his dad.

"Buck fever. The adrenaline rush. Anxiety. Heart beating a mile a minute," said



General Anthony Zinni, Commander in Chief of U.S. Central Command, briefs reporters at the Pentagon on the Bomb Damage Assessment of air strikes in Iraq.

Mankus. "But once we climbed into the jet, a lot of the anxiety went away. You spend a lot of time in the plane training and once you get into your routine of pre-fighting and flying, you feel comfortable, even safe."

But no one really felt comfortable or safe until they landed back in Oman after their six and a half hour mission. Only then could they let down their guard.

Guys In The Back

You can't see much from where "Guvner" Greaney and "X-man" Xiques sit. They each have a small window, but it's only a "day/night indicator." You can't really see much.

"But being in a B-1 is like being in a Cadillac," said "X-man" who sat backwards in the bowels of a B-52 for three years. At least now he's able to sit facing forward and be able to see whether it's daylight or dark outside.

Flying with "Axl" Hoyt was also comforting. Xiques and Hoyt have been flying together since 16 March, 1993 when they went through B-1 training at Dyess. Their wives were relieved that the so-called "B-1 Twins" were together again.

The OSO and DSO are the heart and soul of the B-1. Without them, it would be just another airplane, but with them and their sophisticated offensive and defensive capabilities, the B-1 is a real "killing machine."

En route to the target, Greaney, who got his tactical call sign because the Texas A&M graduate hopes to become the governor of Texas one day, was worried about baby sitting his INS, the inertial navigation system that takes the B-1 to the target and back.

The B-1 has a synthetic radar aperture that makes navigating "nice." A good INS also allows the OSO to put his bombs "right on target."

Since the B-1 does not have FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared Radar) to record bomb strikes, Greaney used a digital camera to photograph radar pictures of the target that appeared on his INS.

Greaney captured a rare photo of the crosshairs as he put them on the center building in the Republican Guard complex moments before he "pulled the trigger," and walked more than forty MK-82 500-lb bombs across the target.

Anatomy Of An Air Strike

As a graduate of the United States Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB in Nevada, Capt. Greaney is an expert in military tactics.

It is not unusual for young Captains like him to plan air strikes on Republican Guard barracks in Iraq.

"Another member of the Mission Planning Cell sat down with me and we decided where "lead" would come across the target and where "two" would come across.

Greaney designed some "TAC deception" into the bomb run so the B-1s would come across Iraq, fake left and then come right across Baghdad to the target.

"We flew to a common point, then to a split point where we broke off and made a right hand turn, a northeasterly turn and continued to maintain our spacing as we made the bomb run. We had a separate IP [initial point] coming into the target, but we both came in from the same direction, just on a different axis to maximize the bomb pattern across the target," said Greaney.

Members of the Republican Guard who were in the barracks at 0130 hours when the first bombs began falling had only a few seconds from the time the first string of 500-pounders began hitting their barracks until the last string began splattering the target.

Looking at a high resolution BDA (Bomb Damage Assessment) photo of what was left of the barracks, Senior Airman Eduarado Leal, who helped load bombs aboard Greaney's bomber, said, "They could have run, but they would have died tired."

"This is one time I felt like I actually earned my paycheck," said Leal who, along with other ground personnel in the 9th Bomb Squadron, takes great pride in his work.

"Usually when I see pictures like that, it's just little practice stuff," said Senior



A Bomb Damage Assessment blowup of the damage done to Al Kut Barracks. From left to right: Senior Airman Ricardo Flores; Captain Patrick McEvoy; Senior Master Sergeant Jerry Vieau; and Senior Airman Eduarado Leal.

Airman Ricardo Flores, an offensive avionics specialist who made sure Greaney's INS was operating properly so that when he put the crosshairs on the target, the bombs would hit that spot. "But this time was for keeps."

"Better than me," said Leal as he looked at the damage his bombs did to the Iraqi barracks.

The blast pattern on point impact 500 pound bombs is 2,500 feet laterally and 3,000 feet vertically. But the bombs the B-1s dropped the first night of the air campaign on the Republican Guard barracks were delayed fuse bombs so they could penetrate the roofs of the barracks and explode inside the buildings.

Looking back, it might have been better to have let the bombs explode on impact to maximize the damage. The way it turned out, many bombs missed the buildings and blew 8-foot deep craters in the surrounding yards, fine if you want to create some swimming pools, but not good if you want to destroy infrastructure.

Senior Master Sergeant Jerry Vieau, the sortie production chief, gave the attack a "High B," but Capt. Hoyt was not totally satisfied with the bomb damage assessment.

"It's not perfect," said Hoyt as he examined a blowup of satellite BDA imagery. "You see too many holes in the ground." But overall, Hoyt feels he couldn't do much better than with 500 pound fused weapons.

The Republican Guard complex consisted of three pairs of two barracks and one additional building, but only one of the buildings in the complex was totally destroyed, and that occurred because it was the center aiming point for both bombers.

"Some other things didn't go right during the deployment," said Captain Patrick McEvoy, the sortie generation commander who tried to make sure everyone in the 9th Bomb Squadron was singing from the same sheet of music.

The logistics of moving six bombers and 650 support personnel from units scattered all over the United States proved to be a nightmare, especially when the attacks were called off in mid November.

"What shot everybody in the foot was

the 11th hour shutdown on November 14th," said Senior Master Sergeant Jerry Vieau, the sortie production chief.

"The military moves in mysterious ways sometimes," said Vieau, "But when it gets moving, it's hard to stop the forward motion. As a result, we had aircraft and people stuck everywhere."

The infamous "Chalk One" got there a week or two late. Chalk One was the initial equipment the 28th Air Expeditionary Group needed to start operations.

"Stuff like tool boxes, ladders, oil, essentials. Stuff you can't buy at the local Mom 'n Pop store," said Vieau. Fortunately, some thoughtful crew chiefs packed toolboxes in the bombers before they left the states.

"So we were able to press on with what we had, and somehow made it work," said Vieau who has seen more than his share of SNAFUS in 22 years of active duty in the United States Air Force. "But if you don't learn from your mistakes, it's time to go home."

During a news conference at the Pentagon two weeks after the attack, General Zinni said a lot of Republican Guard troops are now living in tents as a result of the B-1 attacks. Zinni also said it will take almost two years for Iraq to rebuild the infrastructure that was flattened during the raids.

"When the two crosshairs converged, the barracks disappeared," said Capt. Greaney, as he described the precision with which he walked his bombs across the target.

Capt Hoyt's crew was not close enough to see the lead bomber, from Ellsworth Air Force Base, in South Dakota, drop its weapons.

"I could have transitioned the radar to look straight down as we rolled out onto the final heading, but it gives you the best look at the target off to the side, so at that point my bombsight was pretty much fixed," said Greaney. "And I didn't want to touch it."

"We were 15 seconds behind the lead when he dropped," said Hoyt, "and we egressed before any bombs hit the target."

Since it took 31 seconds for the bombs to fall from a medium altitude (approx-

mately 20,000 feet), none of the 83 bombs both ships dropped that night exploded by the time Hoyt turned off the target.

Sense Of Relief Shattered

It was about 0230 hours local time when Capt Hoyt's crew crossed southern Iraq en route back to Thumrait Air Base in the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom of Oman.

X-man said something about making history, but was interrupted by Axl, who told him and the other crewmembers to "knock off" the historical talk until they got on the ground safely.

"We were only 40 or 50 miles from the Kuwait border when sleep was wanting to take over our bodies, and all of a sudden, our "RAW" (Radar Advance Warning) gear started indicating that an Iraqi surface-to-air missile battery was "up and running," said Capt Xiques.

"Hair stood up on our sweat-soaked heads," said X-man, "because we had just had an emotional letdown after successfully clearing the target and getting beyond the SAM envelope. My voice went up a couple of octaves as the site came up in search mode and went back down. At first I thought it was a different mode; maybe a Patriot missile battery's radar in Kuwait, and then he (SAM operator) came up in the tracking mode and then I knew it was a strategic SAM based on the parametrics of the radar." For some unknown reason, the SAM site didn't fire.

Approaching their temporary base, both crews not only had to deal with hung weapons, two 500-pounders in the forward bay and two in the intermediate bay of the Dyess B-1, and five hung weapons in the Ellsworth bays, but also a landing gear indicator on the Ellsworth bomber.

An in-flight inspection by Hoyt's crew found the gear was down and locked, and both bombers returned safely to base.

The Real Heroes

When it became evident that Saddam

Continued on page 66



Weapons load crew members load Dyess B-1 with MK82 500-pound general purpose bombs in one of three bays on the Lancer.



Major Brian Dodson, A Dyess pilot, inspects landing gear of his bomber before a late-night mission.



Text & Photos by
Mark H. Milstein

On patrol, Sgt. Xhavit "Dave" Elashni carried AK and SIG-Sauer SSG 3000 sniper rifle that cost his unit DM 8,000. Except for ambushes and the occasional accidental *vis-à-vis*, engagements between the KLA and Serb forces are at long range.

Bad News BALKANS

KLA's Windfall Victory

Retmilje. Kosovo The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) calls the stretch of road winding through an alice-pack of switch backs and waist-thin defiles "Apache Canyon." Serb security forces — who view the road as a must-hold strategic link between the Kosovar capital Pristina and the interior — say the name "Apache Canyon" doesn't even begin to describe the 12-kilometer stretch of asphalt. For them, the road is simply known as "the graveyard."

While Serb security forces certainly hold the Apache Canyon road — having set

up checkpoints and bunkers along the way, as well as running around-the-clock mobile patrols — the KLA rules the high ground. And it's from that high ground that small, heavily armed teams of KLA guerrillas have made the Serbs take notice, using speed and stealth to pick off soldier after soldier in near daily attacks that have left the Serbs reeling.

This past November the Apache Canyon road also acted as a jumping off point for *SOF's* latest recon to the breakaway Yugoslav republic. It was from there that we began our look into reports that the KLA,

which appeared out of nowhere last spring only to be pummeled by a Serbian offensive in the summer, had bounced back more resilient and better organized than anyone could ever have imagined.

Friday, 13 November, proved to be *SOF's* lucky day. After a non-eventful morning of following American defense intelligence teams — in Kosovo as part of an international monitoring agreement — on their rounds through former front-line villages in central Kosovo, we decided to drive back to Pristina using the Apache Canyon road.

No sooner had we begun our climb into the first series of narrow gorges than we were nearly run off the road by a Serb troop transport, lightly armored with steel plates welded onto its sides, packed with eight soldiers in full body armor and assault gear.

We picked up speed and within minutes found ourselves side-by-side with the transport as it came upon the first Serb MP standing in the road, holding back civilian traffic.

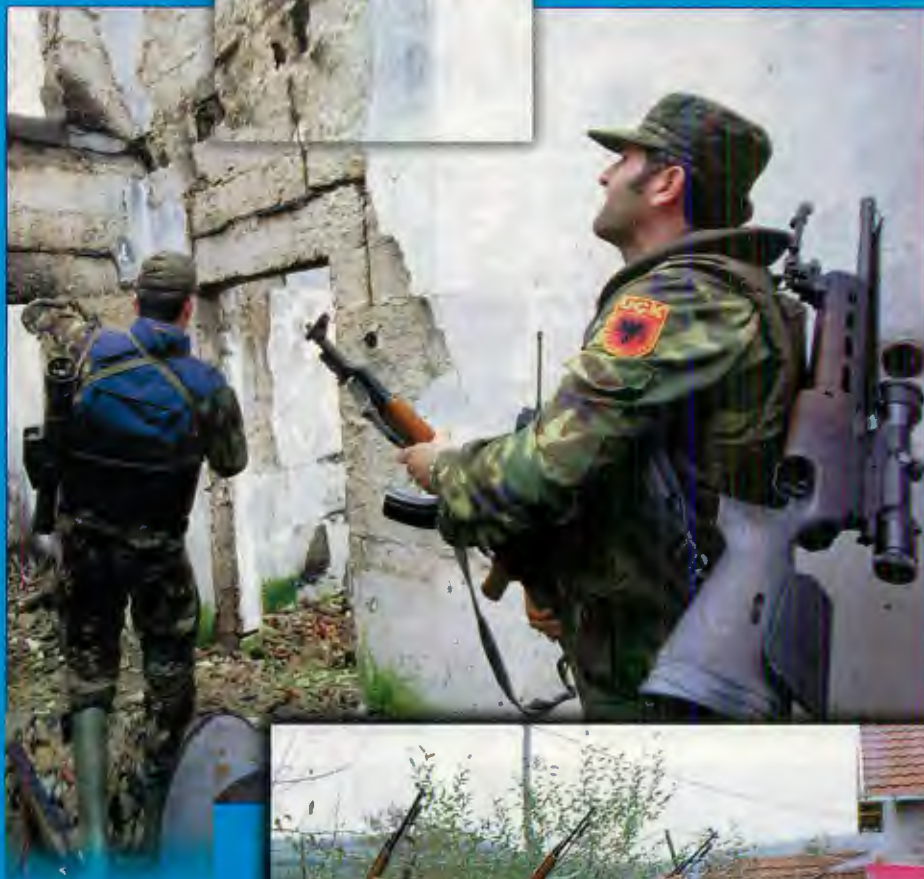
Something was amiss. We pulled the jeep over to the shoulder and through the clutch of Serb military vehicles blocking the road we could see the assault troops prepping their gear and climbing up into the thick forest of pine trees and brush.

No Photos, No Contact

In the road, still smoldering, were the broken remains of a portable CD-player/boom box, a ripped shoe, some bits of bloodied cammo and a Kalashnikov with its magazine broken into two pieces. One Serb soldier was dead, and two others seriously wounded.

"No photos," screamed a Serb officer, as I began shooting the result of what we knew to have been another KLA ambush.

We were rapidly losing sunlight when the first tracked APCs arrived to provide fire support for the assault team. Any chance of the Serbs catching up to the KLA



(above) Usual Serb tactics were to shell villages or KLA centers: After civilians were pushed out, Serbs sent in teams to capture stragglers, loot homes and then burn whatever buildings were not destroyed during initial shelling. Here Sgt. Elashi's squad checks remains of shelled and burned-out building. On patrol several times with Elashni and his squad, SOF found them to be well-equipped, well-armed (below), and except when this photo was taken, becoming trained in the usual small-unit tactics. Sgt. Elashi, right, and Cpl. Miloim Goshi, center right, both had western-made body armor. (right) Burial detail in Retmilje fires salute with Chinese Type 68 rifles, for KLA Colonel Xhelal Hajda and second in command, Selajdin Mullabazi, killed on what they thought would be routine patrol of their perimeter 6 clicks from Retmilje.



shooters that fired the antitank round were slim to none.

"They had no chance," one Serb cop said to us in near accentless English, referring to the dead and injured soldiers. "The truck was by itself. Those guys were blown out of the back of the truck. If the rocket didn't get them, the fall did."

While Serb MPs were trying to figure out from where the antitank rocket was fired, we joked to ourselves that the shooters were by now enjoying a second cup of cappuccino at their favorite cafe.

Brrrrp. Brrrrp. Pop. Pop. Brrrrrrp. Our know-it-all smirks quickly faded as the heavy machine gun from one of the APCs that went out in support of the assault team cut loose a stream of lead. They were somewhere down the road in another gorge, and sounded as if they had lucked out and made contact.

Brrrrrrrrp. Pop. Pop came a second stream of gunfire from the assault squad.

Soldiers and journalists alike stood for a moment waiting for the responding fire. None came. Silence.

We then openly wondered whether the



(left) *SOF* found KLA to be also well-supplied with quality rations — better than some Eastern European regular armies. (right) Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has sent Kosovo 2,000 unarmed observers to monitor the "ceasefire," and meanwhile the KLA has rebuilt and regrouped in a way no one, including the Serbs, ever thought possible.

Serbs got their target. We didn't wait long for an answer.

Although we couldn't understand the rapid-fire Serb military-speak that crackled over the walkie-talkies, we could easily infer from the looks on the faces of the officers standing over a map on the hood of their command jeep that the 20 seconds of shooting we all heard was for naught. The KLA was long gone.

The Phoenix Force

Gone, yes, from the scene of their latest hit-and-run attack success, but not gone from the battlefield.

While U.S. Special Envoy Richard Holbrook last October negotiated a face-saving way for Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to remove his Serb forces from Kosovo to stave off NATO airstrikes, neither party thought it necessary to include the KLA in any of the talks.

After all, most observers concluded at the time, the KLA was soundly defeated on the battlefield during months of Serb assaults that left the whole of Kosovo's inte-



KLA soldiers console relatives of their fallen comrades at funeral in Retmilje. Retmilje brigade's new commander, Dr. Sosi, promised mourners the fallen soldier's deaths would "not go unavenged" and that "victory was in sight."



rior a smoldering heap of destroyed villages and mass graves.

Why, those same observers noted, the KLA couldn't even "hold a traffic light," a reference to their sound defeat during the battle for the city of Orahovac. And anyway, they were nothing more than a band of criminal rabble led by faceless officers with no combat experience.

Standing along the road that afternoon in Apache Canyon it was easy to imagine that Holbrook's failure to bring the KLA into the "loop" during those critical negotiations might come back to haunt the Western allies in the near future.

... Wins The Race

While the West busied itself with getting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send to Kosovo 2,000 unarmed observers to monitor the "ceasefire," the KLA busied itself with a rebuilding and re-indoctrination program that would see it reestablish its presence in a way no one, including the Serbs, ever thought possible.

No one would suggest that what the KLA has done to retake territory approaches brilliant battlefield strategy, but few would now argue that their slow, steady escalation of attacks against Serb security forces might eventually be all that it takes to force Milosevic to quit the troubled province and seal the absolute disintegration of Yugoslavia.

Since last fall, the KLA has retaken the lion's share of the territory it lost during the Serb offensive, setting up checkpoints and mounting patrols by armed men in uniform.

Day after day the KLA does what a guerrilla army does best: It attacks where and when the conventional force enemy least expects it.

On 9 November 1998, the Media Center/Pristina reported that the "bodies of the policemen Alga Vujosevic and Dejan Djatlov that were kidnapped on Friday on the road between Malisevo and Orlate, were found this morning not far from Malisevo.

"According to the first results of the investigation, the two kidnapped policemen were killed by firearms from a close distance."

On 10 November 1998, the Media Center/Pristina reported that a "heavily armed attack was made against the Malisevo police station last night.

"No casualties were reported among the policemen.

"Heavy-armed groups of Albanian extremists attacked the police station using mortars, bazookas and automatic weapons. Four mortar projectiles have hit and damaged the police building. The police fired back and the attackers withdrew."

"Until now, Belgrade enjoyed military superiority. But the KLA, which had been poorly armed and equipped, has taken advantage of the halt in fighting to reorganize and rearm," a western diplomat on assignment in Pristina told *SOF*.

Other Western observers in Kosovo commented on the KLA's change of luck. "The tiger doesn't all of a sudden change its stripes," one Western observer noted to *SOF*. "You don't think the KLA is now a real army? They could only do what they are doing because NATO forced the Serbs to withdraw."

"Neutral" NATO Helps the KLA

Often isolated in areas where the population is entirely ethnic Albanian, Serbian security forces have been allowed by NATO to hold some positions on major roads and to carry out patrols. This has made them vulnerable to attack. But it has also made the Serbs that much more hungry for revenge. After an isolated Serb police outpost was hammered by heavy weapons fire one evening just after *SOF* arrived in Kosovo, the Serbs decided to take pro-active measures and began sending out regular night patrols in the off-chance they would come upon KLA fighters out on their own patrols.

On the night of 5 November, KLA Colonel Xhelal Hajda, 31, and his second in command, Selajdin Mullabazi, 28, gathered

four other fighters and piled into two cars for what they thought would be a routine patrol of their outer perimeter, approximately 6 kilometers from their HQ in the village of Retmilje.

Hajda should have known better. As a decorated commander in the Croatian army, he had seen months of front-line action against Bosnian Serb forces in the early 1990s. He had made few mistakes in his career. That night, however, Hajda's sixth sense seemed to have been on the blink.

As they reached the uppermost asphalt road marking the furthest extension of their zone, they turned right onto a road fenced in on both sides with thick hedgerows: 20 meters further both cars ran smack into the front of a Serb militia APC sitting in the middle of the road. Both cars were two-door sedans, making it impossible for those sitting in the rear to exit when the Serbs opened up on them. In less than 10 seconds all six were dead.

For Whom The Belgrade Tolls

SOF arrived in Retmilje the day of their funeral. The ice and snow had melted and the village's unpaved streets were a quagmire. Hundreds of KLA soldiers in crisp uniforms milled around. Regional commanders, each with adjutants and a small command staff stood near the entrance to Col. Hajda's former HQ, smoking cigarettes and talking shop.

On the parade ground an honor guard took up position and hundreds of mourners in the cold filed passed a water-color drawing of Hajda and Mullabazi to pay their last respects.

The Retmilje brigade's new commander, Dr. Sosi, a former fashion photographer and self-styled linguistics professor, told the crowd that the five fallen soldier's deaths would "not go unavenged" and that "victory was in sight."

After the funeral we introduced ourselves to Dr. Sosi and asked whether *SOF* could spend a week with his Company of approximately 125 soldiers. *SOF* wanted, we told Dr. Sosi, to get a picture the KLA as it stood today. *SOF* wanted to see whether the KLA's new command and doctrine had made an army out of the up-until-then defeated guerrilla force.

It worked. Two days later *SOF* was back in Retmilje, ready to live the life of a KLA grunt.

"I want to introduce you to Sergeant Xhavit 'Dave' Elshani and Miloim Goshi, the sergeant's assistant," said Naim Maloku, the KLA's chief of security for the region.

Maloku told *SOF* that he had plenty of previous military experience as a captain in the Yugoslavian army before defecting to the KLA.

"We've changed," Maloku said. "This is a different fighting force. When the rest of Sergeant Elashni's squad arrives, you can begin your patrol."

Elshani and Cpl. Goshi spoke great German, having both worked — like most of the KLA — as guest workers in Germany

for many years.

"I was a security guard for a while," Goshi told *SOF*. "So I already knew a little about how an army works."

The other two members of our squad spoke no German, but understood a bit of slang English they said they picked up from MTV.

Fathers' Houses

Our patrol was to last about five hours, typical for the six or so around-the-clock waves of patrols sent out from Retmilje every day, according to Maloku.

"We'll go up to the front line that borders the end of the next village," Elashni said. "It's not a true front line, though, because we don't face the Serbs. They're back in Suva Reka at the police station. But it's the outer limits of our zone."

Retmilje was heavily damaged by Serb artillery fire back in August, and around 80% of its buildings — save the Serb Orthodox church — lay in ruins.



SOF correspondent Milstein, right, returns from patrol with KLA rifle squad, past more burned-out homes.

"That was my father's home," one of the soldiers showed *SOF*. "He worked for 15 years in Switzerland, saved money and now he has nothing."

Conventional Serb tactics called for an initial artillery barrage to soften up villages or KLA centers targeted for attack, all four soldiers told *SOF*. After all the civilians were pushed out, the Serbs sent in teams to capture stragglers, loot homes and then burn whatever buildings were not destroyed during the initial bombing.

Waiting, Arming, Training

During the first few hours of our patrol it was easy to see that the KLA had made leaps and bounds in their training. Not only had they created an NCO corps of sorts, but they had taught recruits to follow orders, maintain their weapons and keep proper distance while on patrol.

Not once during the first of four patrols with Elshani and his men did *SOF* observe any bunching up or "cowboy" foolishness, such as mishandling of weapons.

Like our last outing with the KLA before their summer defeat, Elashni's squad was outfitted with a partial assortment of Western or NATO weapons.

Both Elashni and Goshi wore Western-

made body armor. Elashni not only carried a Kalashnikov assault rifle, but also took with him on three of our four patrols a SIG-Sauer SSG 3000 sniper rifle he said cost his unit DM 8,000.

Goshi and another soldier we called Abdi always went out equipped with operable U.S.-made High Explosive Anti Tank (HEAT) rockets. In fact, for the first three days of our joint patrols, we had the sneaking suspicion that the HEAT tubes were empty, and that the KLA carried them as bluff. That was until one day, during the routine checking of an abandoned house, that the front cover on Goshi's launcher caught on a door frame and exposed the head of the rocket.

While *SOF* was permitted to photograph all of the patrols we went out on with Elashni and his men, we were prohibited from doing so when we reached the front-line positions the Retmilje company manned.

There wasn't much to see. Typical slit trenches zig-zagged through what was once a prosperous vineyard. Most were filled with water and only occasionally manned. It was easy to see that this company of KLA fighters had done little offensive fighting since late summer.

"The Serbs are waiting for us to move, and we are waiting for them to come," Goshi said. "It's getting too cold to fight now, but when spring comes we'll come back up here and push towards Suva Reka."

When our patrol returned to Retmilje after our first outing, we sat down with Dr. Sosi and Capt. Maloku and asked them about the weapons pipeline and the renewed doctrine.

"Weapons are coming in," Dr. Sosi said. "We have enough. I am in regular communications with my superiors, and we're not making the same mistakes we made last summer."

Maloku tried to expand on Sosi's general answer by saying that the KLA realized that it was never going to defeat the Serbs by going head-to-head with them.

Doing What They Do Best

"We don't have aircraft, artillery or the experience," Maloku said with a shrug of his shoulders. "Not yet, at least. For now we need to use the winter to train our troops. They must learn discipline and listen to what those soldiers who fought this summer learned from their experience."

This is going to take time. In the meantime, however, we do what we can do best. We can make the Serbs uneasy. We can make them commit manpower to Kosovo. We can make them bleed a little. We have time. We're not on a schedule."

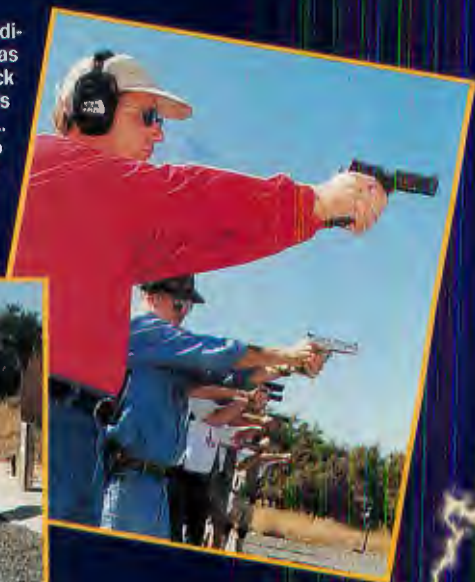
Dr. Sosi chimed in by saying that it was [Yugoslavian president] Milosevic who had a timetable. He was the one under political pressure to do something within a period of time.

It was time for chow. They say an army fights on its stomach, and if that's so the KLA should be at the gates of

Continued on page 68

THUNDER RANCH

(left) Obtaining verbal compliance is an essential ingredient of the draw stroke sequence at Thunder Ranch, as Peter Gill demonstrates. (below) Fighting your way back to cover is an important component of Thunder Ranch's defensive handgun training. Front to rear: Stuart L. Walker, Peter Gill and Doug Clendenin withdraw to cover while throwing out a "shit storm of lead." (right) Clint Smith says, "If you don't hit him, it don't count" and in Defensive Handgun 3 students are expected to match tactics with marksmanship.



Thunder Enlightenment

Thunder Ranch's Defensive Handgun 3 course is most definitely not for the fainthearted. This course is held but once each year, and every year far more apply than are accepted. As the Apostle Matthew said, "For many are called, but few are chosen." Defensive Handgun 3 is the final triad component in Thunder Ranch's sequence of handgun courses. Both Defensive Handgun 1 and 2 are absolute prerequisites. After successful completion of Defensive Handgun 3, you just might qualify as what Clint Smith refers to as a "gunman," although he makes clear that "you cannot create combat masters in a week."

Whatever terminology you wish to apply, this course will expose you to a greater range of shooting techniques and hostile defensive environments than any handgun shooting course at any training facility anywhere in the world. *SOF* staff photographer Chris Mayer and I just completed Defensive Handgun 3 and we both walked away with the certain knowledge that the training experience

Defensive Handgun 3: Another Step Toward Combat Master

by Peter G. Kokalis
Photos by Chris Mayer

we underwent will most likely never be matched or duplicated.

Thunder Ranch's highly respected honcho, Clint Smith, is a Marine Corps veteran with two infantry tours in Vietnam. His experience includes seven years in law enforcement, during which time he served

as head of his department's FTU (Firearms Training Unit), as well as the senior countersniper on the SWAT unit. He was Operations Officer for Jeff Cooper's API, started and served as director of Heckler & Koch's training services division and with his late wife, Deborah, founded International Training Consultants, Inc., a highly regarded mobile training program.

Thunder Ranch has a guest staff of almost three dozen instructors. The six, including Clint, who taught our Defensive Handgun 3 course were representative of the impressive quality of Thunder Ranch's adjunct personnel. Robbie Barrkman, a fourth-generation native of South Africa with considerable combat experience in the South African Defense Force, owns the highly acclaimed Robar Companies, Inc., a custom shop specializing in the M1911 series, Glock modifications, sniper weapon systems and fighting shotguns. Dennis Tueller, recently retired as a lieutenant from the Salt Lake City Police Department, is widely known in my loop for the so-called

"Tuellet Drill," in which it can be demonstrated that a man with a knife can run up to you from 7 yards in a mere 1.5 to 2 seconds. Tim Wickett, with 11 years experience as an instructor at the DOE's Central Training Academy at Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was an "orange" Gunsite instructor under Jeff Cooper from 1982 to 1988. Walt Rauch, a former Secret Service agent and highly regarded combat handgun writer, was the course's certified Simunitions I/X instructor. Ken Murphy is one of the young turks at the Kerrville, Texas Police Department, where he is known as "Robocop." It should be emphasized that this provided a student-to-instructor ratio of just slightly more than 3-to-1. No other recognized firearms training facility can boast of such a low ratio of students to instructors.

Thunder Ranch classes never contain more than 20 students, as that is the number of firing positions on each range. As a consequence, students get more than their money's worth, since there is none of the usual down

time associated with firearms classes that must be run in relays. You can expect to fire about 2,000 rounds in one of Thunder Ranch's handgun courses. To further intensify the hands on instruction and maximize the time spent sending projectiles down range, we were split into three groups of six or seven and stayed with those groups during the entire course.

The students in this class represented the usual cross section of individuals that attend courses to hone their gunfighting skills. Four of the 19 were law-enforcement personnel. The rest were men, from as far away as El Salvador, who realize that purchasing a firearm is only the smallest part of the self-defense equation.

Professional's Picks

Their mix of weapons provided reveal-

ing information. There was one Heckler & Koch P7/M13, eight Glocks and 10 M1911-type pistols. Four of the Glocks were either G17, G19 or G26 9mm Parabellums, two were chambered for the .40 S&W round, and one each for 10mm Auto and .45 ACP. I always use an M1911-type pistol in Thunder Ranch's handgun courses and this time I had a Kimber Gold Match stainless steel model stuffed in my holster. There can be no doubt that the pistol Jeff Cooper popularized as the ultimate fighting handgun still reigns supreme. For all of its crankiness and the often extensive custom gunsmithing many variants require, the caliber .45 ACP M1911 is still perceived by most armed professionals in this country to be the handgun most likely to win the fight when drawn from leather by an experienced pistolero.

No small part of that perception is based upon confidence in the .45 ACP cartridge. Penetration is, without doubt, the single most important parameter in evaluating the wound ballistics performance of handgun ammunition. The bullet must penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break



(left, above, and right) Once you have achieved cover you must continue to fight until "they stop doing what they're doing."



(below, left) Getting knocked down in a scuffle is part of the real world and you must be able to start the fight in that position. (below, right) Once the fight starts you must get back on your feet and withdraw to cover, fighting as you go. Left to right: Peter Gill, Doug Clendenin, and Stu Walker.



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through the human body's vital structures and organs. However, once we've obtained the required penetration, *the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage.* It is largely because of this that the .45 ACP round remains the cartridge of choice among a substantial majority of armed professionals after almost nine decades.

The first two hours of the morning of the first day of this five-day class was spent in the classroom being exposed to the important concepts we were to apply during the rest of the course on the square ranges and in the Terminator and Tower. By 1030 we were on the Red Range, starting first with dry fire practice and then with live fire on a so-called "negative target" which had a hole in the center and was a pivoting type. We practiced all three of the most commonly encountered malfunctions: magazine not locked in place, stovepipe and a double feed. The first two can be cleared by the standard "tap, rack, bang" sequence, the lat-

ter requires locking the slide rearward, removal of the magazine, racking the slide several times and then insertion of a new magazine and consequent chambering of a round. This is a tough stoppage to experience in a gunfight and personally I would probably transition to a backup, as Clint says you must "Keep shooting until they stop doing what they're doing."

At Thunder Ranch shooting a "Plan A" means firing at the torso, or the body's energy source, the number of shots determined by the threat. Firing a "Plan B" indicates a shot to the head — the body's computer, while a "Plan C" signifies the first two zones plus shooting at the pelvis, which should affect your opponent's mobility. Clint Smith says, "Shoot what is available as long as it is available and until something else is available." At Thunder Ranch you shoot until you win or the threat stops. When moving targets stop, you cease fire, as they have either gone down or you



Learning to draw out of the holster with only your support hand is one of the challenges presented to students in Thunder Ranch's Defensive Handgun 3 course.

Upping The Realism Ante

One of the most important goals of any type of weapons training is to bring the student as close to the reality of armed combat as is safely possible. The U.S.

military attempts to accomplish this by means of a system called MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System). In this type of training, every soldier and vehicle is equipped with laser sensors that register hits and near misses from laser-equipped weapons carried by both sides. To signal kills, a small electronic box is attached to the back of each soldier's helmet. When any of the button-sized sensors on his helmet and web gear are struck by a laser beam, the electronic box emits a steady sound that can only be silenced by removing a key from the laser firing device on his M16.

Law enforcement agencies cannot afford this type of esoterica and in recent years have come to depend upon Simunition FX Marking Cartridges to provide force-on-force, interactive live-fire scenario training in a safe manner. This non-lethal ammunition is available in calibers .38/.357 for revolvers and 9x19mm for a substantial range of pistols and submachine guns. The system utilizes



a detergent-based, water-soluble, inert, bright fluorescent red or blue color mark. The muzzle velocity is approximately 400 fps. These cartridges can produce non-lethal bruises or welts only if the skin is unprotected. Face masks, throat collars, protective vests and groin protectors are recommended. Intended only for law enforcement and military training, as well as certified civilian firearms training facilities, Simunition FX Marking Cartridges should only be used under proper supervision. Qualified users should contact Simunition Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 576, Avon, CT 06001-0576;

(left) Clint Smith lies "dead" in the hallway of the Terminator during a Simunitions exercise. (below) SOF's Technical Editor, Peter G. Kokalis, vehemently argues his justification for putting three rounds into Clint Smith during his Simunitions run in the Terminator while Walt Rauch looks on in amusement.



have achieved compliance.

Back on the Red Range after our first Simunitions experience in the Tower, we faced three-dimensional pivoting targets with t-shirts and a negative-type wobbler. Each student was issued a "hand can" or "sleeve" made from a section of PVC pipe with a bolt through it. This was used throughout the week for shooting with either the firing hand or support hand only. The drawstroke and all three malfunction drills were practiced in this manner. Most handgun firing drills at Thunder Ranch involve moving back to cover in an attempt to maximize the distance to the threat you are faced with and minimize yourself as a target. These exercises are repeated over and over again as Clint believes that "You will do in a fight what you have trained to do."

Shooting over 2,000 rounds in a week means a lot of magazine changes. They are always performed in conjunction with

your partner, shouting "cover" when you need to change and "clear" when you are finished. His response should be "covering." Of course, any other verbal responses that would be appropriate can be used as long as both parties agree beforehand.

Full Course Firing

The morning of the second day was spent in the Terminator completing a Simunitions run (see sidebar). After lunch we were back on the Red Range practicing shooting on the move, withdrawals to cover, movement to the left and right and then strong and support shooting using the hand while withdrawing to cover. Cycling to the Orange Range we fired at chargers (using the hand sleeve) and movers. We finished the day at the Yellow Range. There we fired "grounded" drills which involved lying on your back and drawing and fighting your way to your feet and back to cover. This was followed by prone shooting:

rolling right or left, engaging multiple targets and shooting while lying on your back and over your head. We ended with one-hand manipulation of malfunction drills. This afternoon cycle was repeated after dinner using ambient light provided by a floodlight that simulated the light found in a parking lot.

The morning of the third day found us in the Terminator for two live fire runs. The tactical movement concept of "slicing the pie" is all-important in successfully clearing a building complex. Back on the Red Range we fired head shots on a pivoting target and magazine changes. Then two more high anxiety runs through the Terminator and back to the Red Range for failure-to-drills.

Moving to the Yellow range we were introduced to the complex seat belt and handgun manipulation required for shooting from a car from both the driver's and passenger's side. Firing was from approximately 10 yards at reactive steel plates and the

phone: 1-800-465-8255; fax: 860-404-0169; web site: <http://www.simunition.ca/html/fx.html>.

Defensive Handgun 3 was Thunder Ranch's first use of Simunition FX Marking Cartridges. Clint Smith played an integral role in both of the Simunitions scenarios, as he wanted to confirm the training value of this system. On the afternoon of the first day we entered the Tower for our first exposure to Simunitions. It proved to be a frustrating episode for me as the two individuals I encountered, one sitting behind a table with a revolver clearly visible on the table and the other sitting on a bench just beyond my ability to observe from cover, were both non-compliant, but non-aggressive. Police officers confront individuals like these on an almost daily basis. However, my exclusively military background did not prepare me for this and I became flustered. In an attempt to control both of them, I moved away from cover and the 400-pound sack of shit on the bench shot me in the chest.

Resolving to learn from this experience, the next day I entered the Terminator for the second and final Simunitions drill. Clearing the first room in a hallway, I found a scruffy-looking individual flattened against the outer wall of the room. When he started waving his hands in front of him and failed to comply, I put three rounds into his chest (I later learned that he had one revolver on his person and another in the sink). At the same moment the 400-pound sack of shit came racing down the hall at me with a knife. I used the other three rounds in my revolver to drop him. Clint's comment was that "Peter came into the Terminator looking to kill someone and he did." Walt Rauch's statement to me was, "The whole world is not a nail, just because you have a hammer." My experiences with Simunitions provided me with valuable lessons in a law enforcement environment in which I have little knowledge. Even in El Salvador, where the guerrillas often wore the same camouflage as we did, on the field of battle the enemy was most often clearly defined, and both non-compliant and aggressive.

— P.G.K.



Shooting at the chargers from a sitting position behind a table adds a touch of realism not found at many firearms training facilities. (below) Stu Walker engages the chargers by firing with his support hand only.



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(clockwise from top left) Doug Clendenin (foreground) and Stu Walker engage the chargers at night. Note extended high capacity magazine in Clendenin's Glock — a good idea for Defensive Handgun 3, where you need every round you can stuff into your magazines. Doug Clendenin shoots at the movers on the Orange Range with only his support hand. Most often, students in Defensive Handgun 3 fired at a negative-type wobbler and a three-dimensional pivoting target with a t-shirt, while on the Red Range. Defensive Handgun 3 student fires at high-speed lateral running targets from behind cover on the Orange Range.



pace was intense.

The evening began with a live fire exercise in the Tower. Over at the Yellow Range we fired from vehicles using headlights for illumination. The night ended at the Terminator. Are you starting to get the idea? Clint says, "The fight will last as long as it does" and it was beginning to look like Handgun 3 would never end.

The fourth day of the course was paced at an equal frenzy. Commencing at the Red Range for warm up drills and "grounded" exercises, we quickly moved to the Orange Range where we shot at chargers from chair behind a table and at the movers for accuracy with only two shots. At the Yellow range we fired from kneeling and prone at ranges from 25 to 100 yards. There are no yard markers on any of the ranges at Thunder Ranch because there are no distance markers on the sidewalk or in the building in which you will fight.

At night we went to the Red Range for firing at night with flashlights (including



1



2



3



4

Clint Smith demonstrates the proper sequence and manipulation for firing a handgun from a vehicle. 1) Support hand under the seat belt and firing grip assumed. 2) Seat belt released, but under control, and pistol begins to come up. 3) Seat Belt still under control and pistol moves safely over the steering wheel. 4) Seat belt released and two-handed firing position assumed.

control, and pistol begins to come up. 3) Seat Belt still under control and pistol moves safely over the steering wheel. 4) Seat belt released and two-handed firing position assumed.

Thunder Ranch: World Class Facility



Shooting at both the wobbler and pivoting targets in the same firing sequence can generate a considerable amount of stress and anxiety. (below) Dennis Tueller illustrates proper form for shooting the handgun from the prone position at distances from 25 up to 100 yards.



malfunction drills using illumination from your partner's light only), road flares and a rotating emergency light. We finished the evening with a live fire tactical exercise in the Tower.

I commenced the final day by being grateful that we had all made it this far. At the Red range we fired warm up drills and accurate head shot with the hand sleeve. We cycled to the Tower and then back to Red Range for drills that we had practiced all week.

That morning Clint took each of us for a "short spin around the block." For most of us this was our first experience at shooting from a vehicle moving about 15 mph at stationary reactive steel plates. This presents an entirely different perspective and you must aim for the right edge of the plate and fire well before you're on it. Defensive Handgun 3 ended where it began, at the Red Range where we fired every drill.

Climbing the long ladder up to Thunder Ranch's Handgun 3 requires dedication, desire and stamina few possess. Clint says, "If you don't hit him, it don't count." Those who complete Thunder Ranch's highest level handgun course can "hit him" with a great deal of certainty and will never be food for the sharks. ☞

The Thunder Ranch Training Facility (Dept. SOF, HCR 1, Box 53, Mountain Home, TX 78058; phone: 830-640-3138; fax: 830-640-3183; web site: www.thunderranchinc.com), which opened in 1993, is located 96 miles west of San Antonio, Texas, and 46 miles to the east of Kerrville, in the rolling-hills karst topography of southern Texas on a total of 2,400 acres. This region, once known principally for Texas Longhorn cattle, is now a center for exotic game ranches.

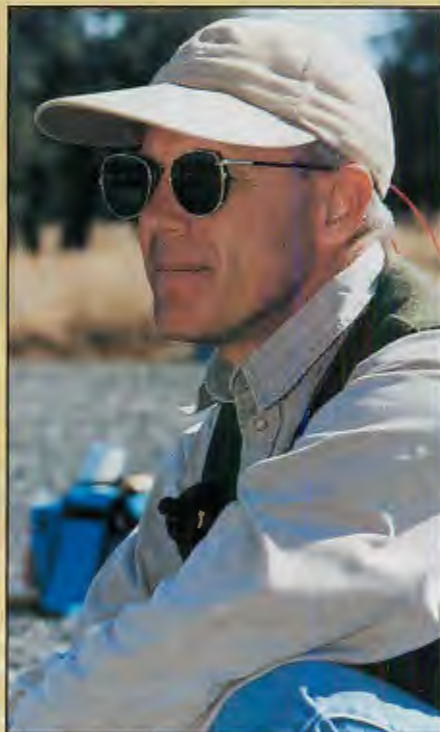
Thunder Ranch's physical plant is world class throughout. There are four ranges. Both the Red Range and Orange Range are 50x50-yard square ranges. Red Range is the base range for all handgun-related classes. This 20-position range has turning, stationary, wobbler and interface target potential with "cover" structures when required. While the Orange Range also has stationary and wobbler target potential, its most prominent facets include a unique "charger" system that represents threats closing quickly on the student. In addition, it also has a two- or four-target setup for high-speed lateral running targets with an 80-foot range of operation. The Yellow Range measures 50x100 yards and has IPSC body-style armored and disc-type resetting targets. The target options include steel, paper, hostage, stationary, wobbler and movers. This 20-position range is the



base range for preliminary work in shotgun and some pistol courses. Also holding 20 positions, the 50x100-yard White Range has stationary, wobbler and high-speed turning targets available. Its numerous barricades represent protective cover and/or concealment. The two-section Black Range has a 20-position conventional rifle range in 100-yard increments out to 300 yards. The other portion is a field range for target engagements from 400 to 1,200 yards for both known and unknown distance applications.

The most visually impressive facilities at Thunder Ranch are the Tower, Thunderville and the infamous Terminator. The Tower is a monolithic four-story structure with its own tactical simulator that permits live fire in all rooms and stairwells. Problems of both internal and external entry can be addressed. The stairwells vary in dimensions and geometry. All of the window ports can be plugged. Students in the Countersniper classes fire from the Tower. Thunderville is an elaborate, day or night, in-depth facade over 200 feet in length representing a two-sided street setting. It's used in all of the rifle programs that present dynamic scenarios. With over sixty target options, as well as movers, hostages, runners and wobblers, Thunderville features computer-controlled lighting, doors, movement, timing and hit documentation. This simulator has been designed to test decision-making and target identification under maximum stress. The Terminator, used in handgun, shotgun and rifle courses, can simulate home, motel or office environments with over 400 floor plan options and targets that emphasize identification and selection prior to engagement. This building is covered by a free-span roof for training under all lighting or weather conditions.

There are few facilities that can even come close to the quality provided by Thunder Ranch. The instruction is superb and students are pushed to the very limits of their physical and mental capabilities. A training certificate from Thunder Ranch indicates achievement respected by law enforcement and military small arms authorities throughout the world. —P.G.K.



Thunder Ranch represents the hopes, aspirations and experience of one man, Clint Smith. (below) Five of the eight pistols Clint Smith is concealing during his range lecture on concealment.



John Brojan

No rivalry between any two federal law enforcement agencies is longer or more bitter than that of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It dates back to the gang wars, bank robberies and bootlegging of the Roaring '20s, when police corruption was rampant and J. Edgar Hoover's fledgling FBI emerged over Eliot Ness's "Untouchables" as the preeminent federal law enforcement agency.

Fancy, then, circumstances so odd that BATF's bosses in Washington would pass up a chance to take credit for two of their agents who provided the initial leads that led to the bust of one of Chicago's largest drug-smuggling rings, allegedly run by a cop. Although the FBI finally cracked the case, it is a BATF agent, and a former gun bureau agent, who first blew the whistle and are likely to provide pivotal testimony when the case goes to trial.

Stranger, still, imagine a situation so

bizarre that, instead of singing the praises of these two, BATF bosses ordered them not to report the allegations, then leaked word to the accused. Their supervisors took away their badges and guns and shunted them off to do paperwork in a large storage closet while trying to fire them. The unspoken message: Follow orders, not the law.

"We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto." We're at BATF headquarters, where the "wizard" pulling the levers and blowing the smoke from behind the bureaucratic curtain, Director John Magaw, told *TIME* magazine in 1995, that his two special agents "are going to be fired ... They deserve to be fired."

But after five years of litigation through the Merit Systems Protection Board, an administrative judicial body set up to protect the rights of federal employees who are unfairly punished, Magaw failed in his vow to fire Diane Klipfel and Mike Casali. The MSPB ruling forced BATF to pay a finan-

FBI agents raided Jade Dragon Tattooing for records of laundered drug profits by Chicago cop Joe Miedzianowski, who admitted in wire-tapped phone conversations with gangsters that he partially owns it, along with a beauty shop. Agents also searched his home and that of Cook County sheriff's employee accused of stealing police ammunition, giving it to Miedzianowski, who passed it along to gangbusters. One witness who saw Miedzianowski in jail just after Christmas said he had to be segregated because he was beaten by another prisoner.

cial settlement to both agents, who are husband and wife, in 1997.

A multi-million-dollar civil suit filed, alleging defamation and civil rights violations, is pending.

How The Dirty Have Fallen

So far, there is only one person in this police corruption scandal who seems cer-

Vice & Valor

Day Of Reckoning For Dirty Cops And Dopers

by James L. Pate

tain to lose his job: Joseph Jerome Miedzianowski, of the Chicago Police Department. Miedzianowski (pronounced maa-janow-skee) was assigned to BATF and working for Klipfel when she accused him and another Chicago police officer of stealing from a drug dealer they busted in February 1992.

Three months later, in a completely unrelated stroke of luck, a confidential informant working for the feds on a Miami-Chicago drug-smuggling ring told his control agent that his connections in Chicago bragged in a secretly recorded conversation they could get machine guns and silencers from "Joe at ATF," whom the gangsters also said would steal cocaine from busted dealers, deliver it to them and split the profits. They were talking about Joe Miedzianowski, who was assigned at the time to Klipfel's group.

Miedzianowski's trial promises to be an embarrassment for his department, which conducted an Internal Affairs investigation that cleared him of any wrongdoing. It also is the latest in a long series of scandals and screw-ups for BATF management. Bureau bosses not only ignored the allegations of its own agents — two of its best — but actually alerted Miedzianowski and instead set out to destroy the careers of Klipfel and Casali.

Miedzianowski, a 22-year police veteran who specialized in developing long-term intelligence on street gangs in Chicago, was arrested and jailed without bond on 16 December. He is accused of taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes over an 18-month period leading up to his arrest, and actually merging and taking over day-to-day operations of two separate drug rings run by Latin street gangs.

According to a criminal complaint by the U.S. Attorney's office, hastily filed when Miedzianowski accidentally learned his telephones were wiretapped, the 45-year-old police officer and his buddies from the Maniac Latin Disciples and the Latin Lovers street gangs distributed hundreds of pounds of cocaine and heroin, and scores of illegal guns, on the streets of Chicago.

The FBI apparently had wire-tapped two telephones in Miedzianowski's home, his office phone, his pager, and had bugged his unmarked police car. The complaint contains pages of transcripts from his various conversations with more than a dozen street gangsters.

Miedzianowski allegedly laundered some of the drug profits into a couple of sideline businesses in Chicago: Jade Dragon Tattooing and the Sanctuary of Hair beauty salon. Both businesses were among six locations searched by FBI agents on the day of Miedzianowski's arrest.

Other locations included Miedzianowski's home, where he lived with his wife and two teenaged children. Agents there seized more than 50 firearms — many of them unregistered — and bomb technicians were called in to handle explosives and incendiaries found in the home. Also seized was



Chicago cop Joe Miedzianowski, seen here at BATF raid briefing, was jailed in December after being accused by FBI of selling hundreds of pounds of cocaine and heroin — and machine guns and silencers — to Chicago street gangs. In 1984, Miedzianowski beat up Rev. Jorge Morales in front of the pastor's church because Morales supported a candidate the cop opposed. An internal police investigation cleared Miedzianowski then, just as it did when he was accused of drug-dealing and gunrunning in 1992. But FBI says it has an ironclad case against him. Morales expressed relief. "I have lived with fear for many years," he said. "This system of the police policing themselves does not work."



Former Chicago BATF SAC Joe Vince (foreground) and Chicago Police Lt. Mike Byrne at a ceremony in which Vince gave Byrne an award. When Byrne and another Chicago cop assigned to BATF, Joe Miedzianowski, were accused by two BATF agents of stealing tens of thousands in cash and jewels from drug dealer, Vince took steps to protect the two Chicago cops and tried to fire his own two agents. Despite this and other evidence of corruption, such as close personal and business relationships with a convicted embezzler and thief, and a track record of financial improprieties during three assignments as BATF boss, Vince retired in December without punishment.

unspecified evidence from the home of a Cook County deputy who allegedly was stealing .223-caliber ammunition from a sheriff's department range, then passing it Miedzianowski, who gave it to street gang members.

Dirty And Dealing

One of Miedzianowski's alleged dealers, Joseph DeLeon, told FBI Special Agent Patrick J. Loll that Miedzianowski would personally deliver crack cocaine to DeLeon in four- or five-pound lots concealed in duffel bags, deliveries sometimes made in a parking lot behind the police station where Miedzianowski worked at his \$55,000-a-year job.

Loll testified at a preliminary hearing on 21 December that DeLeon told him the Chicago policeman would sell DeLeon almost five pounds of crack cocaine every week or 10 days over 18 months — which means it could have been up to 300 pounds. Cocaine can wholesale for up to \$200,000 per pound.

Miedzianowski is also accused of selling machine guns, sound suppressors and tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition stolen from the Cook County Sheriff's Department, to gangbangers. DeLeon told Loll he personally got 12 guns from Miedzianowski, and usually got seven or eight boxes of ammo at one time, allegedly stolen by a Cook County deputy working at the range. The guns and ammunition, DeLeon said, were passed out to other members of the Maniac Latin Disciples, and to the Latin Lovers.

In addition, Miedzianowski allegedly met drug couriers flying in from Miami and used his badge and gun to escort them unquestioned through airport security in Chicago, and used his police powers to steal pounds and pounds of cocaine and tens of thousands of dollars in cash from rival drug dealers and split the proceeds with his criminal associates.

When a deal for 13-kilograms of cocaine — almost 30 pounds — went sour and a Latin Lover gang member known as Babyface shot and killed the dealer, Miedzianowski was called. He shooed the gangsters away, scooped up coke and covered up the murder by reporting that he came across the victim's body by chance. In hundreds of hours of wiretap transcripts picked up by FBI surveillance teams, Miedzianowski is heard on several occasions to threaten to kill various people he suspected of being police informants.

Rat In Charge Of The Larder

In one taped phone conversation with Miedzianowski's Miami connection, an unindicted co-conspirator named Juan Martir, who will be a key witness against the Chicago policeman, talked about another Chicago cop, referred to in a 64-page affidavit by agent Loll only as "Individual B," who apparently was in cahoots with Miedzianowski. Martir observed in the wiretapped call that the unidentified officer

is "mean." The other officer, Miedzianowski answered, "would kill someone in a heartbeat."

In another wiretapped phone conversation cited in the 64-page complaint, when asked about the truthfulness of a story circulating on the street, Miedzianowski admitted that, behind closed doors with a suspect, he once heated a coat hanger over

an open flame and used it to encourage cooperative answers to his questions.

In a three-part series published in 1996, *Soldier Of Fortune* was the first publication to report that Miedzianowski was among several law enforcement targets of a federal grand jury investigating police corruption in Chicago. (see "Rise and Fall of the ATF," "Dirty Cops and Robbers" and "Windy City

Scapegoats," May, June and July 1996, respectively.)

Police corruption anywhere is bad news. But Chicago — notorious for crooked cops in the 1920s and '30s — is an especially unfortunate locale for such a scandal. Chicago is the spiritual home of BATF, where its patron saint, Eliot Ness, merged legendary myth with a rather rude reality

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Director John Magaw remains adamant that Diane Klipfel and Mike Casali should have been fired by the BATF. He told *Soldier Of Fortune* in mid-January that the bureau's attempts to fire them were "not because of anything that had to do with the Chicago police officer" they accused of corruption.

Magaw's assertion is disingenuous, at best. In a deposition Magaw gave 18 months ago for a civil suit filed against him by Casali and Klipfel, under an oath sworn subject to penalty of perjury, the director said he had not read any of the Internal Affairs (IA) documents relating to more than 100 false accusations of wrongdoing made against them by Joe Miedzianowski. He is "the Chicago police officer" to whom Magaw referred when talking to *SOF* — the same Chicago cop now in jail without bond, accused of trafficking hundreds of pounds of cocaine and heroin and selling guns to street gangsters.

Lawyers for Casali and Klipfel filed a combined response to

But OIG and Internal Affairs can only investigate. They have no enforcement power to punish anyone based on their findings. Only Magaw can take action. And federal personnel regulations demand that disciplinary action be taken when misconduct or corruption is found, and that such action serve as a deterrent to future wrongdoing.

Conversely, then, if disciplinary action is designed to deter unlawful behavior, that means that failure to take such action, by implication, condones unethical or unlawful behavior. And this raises serious doubts once again about the ability of the police to police themselves.

As examples, herewith is a rogue's gallery of present and former BATF agents — all management — who've come under investigation, and who Magaw has let off the hook since he took over BATF in 1993. In every instance, Magaw failed in his duty to punish the guilty.

WATSON CUMMINS BEATY: In the same time frame since

How "Untouchable" Can You Get?

Miedzianowski's bogus charges that included 95 exhibits and, in total, weighed 25 pounds. As director, if Magaw failed to read the file before officially deciding to fire any agent, he was negligent in his duty as director. If he did read any of them, he has committed perjury. But Magaw's assertion to *SOF* is belied by no less a person than a federal judge: In May 1997, an administrative law judge issued a blistering condemnation of the actions taken by Magaw and BATF against Casali, ruling that Casali was a victim of retaliation and persecution and should be reinstated with back pay.

"BATF failed to adhere to the highest ethical conduct expected from a federal law enforcement agency," Judge Stephen Manrose wrote. Casali's case against Magaw was so strong, BATF decided not to defend Magaw's actions against Klipfel. Although she could have returned to work, too, she was so disgusted by what had transpired, she elected not to. The bureau paid the husband and wife an undisclosed financial settlement.

Be that as it may, and despite federal criminal charges against Miedzianowski that validate the original accusations against him by Casali and Klipfel, "We certainly have no intention of issuing them any apology," Magaw told *SOF*.

Magaw, head of one of most high-profile federal law enforcement agencies, now has the ignominious distinction of being a co-defendant in the civil lawsuit with Miedzianowski, an accused gunrunner and drug dealer. The allegations about the corrupting influence Miedzianowski's assignment to BATF had on the bureau's top two agents in Chicago at the time, Joe Vince and Jimmie Adamcik, were confirmed by two separate investigations by the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG), and included an unprecedented raid on BATF's Chicago offices by OIG agents, who carted off file cabinets full of documents.



BATF Director John Magaw, seen here at federal law enforcement commission meeting in January, said the bureau has no intentions of apologizing to Mike Casali and Diane Klipfel, two agents whom Magaw tried to fire after they reported evidence of corruption by Chicago cops assigned to BATF. Magaw, who makes more money than the president, also refuses to explain why he paid himself more than \$32,000 in pay bonuses in 1997.

Casali and Klipfel blew the whistle on corruption in BATF's Chicago operations, the bureau's Internal Affairs (IA) Division documented multiple purchases of mail-order child pornography by Beaty, then the special-agent-in-charge (SAC) of BATF's office in Nashville, Tenn.

IA investigators documented that Beaty was using a government credit card to purchase kiddie porn, and that it was delivered to his office. One secretary interviewed said she was shocked when she walked into Beaty's office and saw him at his desk, trousers unzipped, penis exposed, masturbating over a photograph of a naked boy. Beaty's only punishment was to be relieved of his managerial duties. He was transferred to a no-work job in his home state of Alabama, where he was already building a home and has since retired with a full government pension.

WILLIAM MARSHALL REECE: Despite overwhelming evidence of embezzlement and mail fraud — including a front-page exposé in the *Washington Post* — William Marshall Reece, head of BATF's air operations, was allowed by Magaw to retire with a full pension while Reece was still under Department of Justice investigation. Reece was subsequently arrested, jailed and convicted of mail fraud and income tax evasion, in a plea bargain agreement that allowed him to

escape punishment for embezzlement. He was sentenced to more than seven years imprisonment.

JIMMIE ADAMCIK: He was Chicago's assistant-agent-in-charge (ASAC) and a rising star better known among the rank and file for sucking up to bosses than busting bad guys. Through one of his group supervisors, John Gamboa, Adamcik met Joe Miedzianowski. (Gamboa was fired in the wake of the sexual harassment scandal exposed by CBS News *60 Minutes* a month before the Waco

and set a swashbuckling tone that has haunted bureau bosses ever since, from Wabash Avenue to Waco. And in this latest example, the erstwhile Untouchables have been indelibly tarnished by the taint of dirty money and organized crime.

Nor is it good news for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, leader of one of the most liberal bastions of notoriously corrupt

Democratic Party machine politics in the nation, once headed by his iron-fisted legendary father. Police corruption is bad enough, in and of itself. But it's also a potentially thorny legal and political problem for Daley for another reason.

Chicago, which has some of the most restrictive gun-control laws in the nation — and one of the highest murder rates — is

among the first U.S. cities to sue gun manufacturers. Taking the lead of states which filed class-action complaints against tobacco companies, Chicago in November sued several gunmakers for \$433 million, accusing them of being a public health menace by selling more guns in the city than could be sold to law-abiding citizens.

On 26 January, a judge in Brooklyn,

disaster, but Magaw later rehired him.) Through Miedzianowski, Adamcik (pronounced adam-check) met a crook named John Boyle. Boyle, a subsequent Treasury OIG report noted, "has relatives who may have organized crime connections." Boyle himself was "well-connected" in the same circles, the report said, adding that "Jim Adamcik, ASAC, took Boyle everywhere ..."

Boyle took Adamcik and his boss, SAC Joe Vince, places, too. Boyle would get them free tickets to Chicago Cubs games and do other favors. Boyle arranged for Adamcik to buy a Cadillac at dealer cost. Boyle and Miedzianowski also got a truckload of free pressure-treated lumber, which Adamcik used to build a new deck on his home, using Chicago BATF agents to perform the labor. In return, Adamcik circumvented low-bid requirements and sent agents' cars for repairs at a garage owned by Boyle, which was more than 25 miles across town.

Despite piece after piece of damning evidence documented by the Treasury OIG, Adamcik remained in favor with Magaw because of his blind loyalty and sycophantic schmoozing, so much so that when the Murrah Building was destroyed in Oklahoma City, Magaw tapped Adamcik to head up the explosives investigation. That plum assignment ended, however, when *The Washington Times* revealed that the man selected by Magaw to head up the bomb probe for BATF was himself under criminal investigation. The bad publicity forced Magaw to remove Adamcik from the Oklahoma City case and Adamcik was "punished." He had a letter of reprimand put in his file and he was transferred to Los Angeles as ASAC. Last year, he was transferred to Dallas, where he has since retired.

JOSEPH A. VINCE, JR.: aka "Hollywood Joe," for his penchant for ordering street agents to take stupid risks calculated in his mind to garner grandiose media coverage. Treasury Department OIG investigators followed on the heels of three of Vince's last four assignments.

As assistant special agent-in-charge (ASAC) in Miami, Vince's negligent and/or incompetent management led to chronically sloppy book-keeping that resulted in tens of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money wasted or lost. Joe's just lucky he was working for Uncle Sam and not some drug kingpin. If he'd so carelessly mishandled cocaine cartel cash, police would have found his body floating in Biscayne Bay.

An OIG report highly critical of Vince's Miami management style apparently made no difference to his buddies at headquarters, though, and he was promoted to be SAC in Chicago, where his financial fumbling and finagling continued. Another OIG report ensued, documenting tens of thousands of dollars in unexplained disbursements from the administrative operations fund, falsified receipts and a host of unauthorized purchases.

But compared to his other problems as BATF's Chicago boss, his drunken-sailor spending habits were minor. Trying to impress an attorney general visiting Chicago, Vince ignored the advice of his tactical planners and case agents and changed a well-conceived arrest plan into a "dynamic entry" dog-and-pony show in hopes of making a big splash on the evening news. The tactical commander "was angry," according to the report of yet another Treasury OIG investigation, that a safe and sound arrest plan was altered by Vince "because of political expediency ... [and] as a result ... needlessly jeopardized ATF agents. Because of the situation that developed, a person was killed," and the family filed a wrongful death suit against BATF.

Vince also got caught up with his ASAC, Adamcik, in the sleazy deals with John Boyle, attending Chicago Cubs games with tickets paid for by Boyle, and accepting designer athletic team jackets and other free apparel from Boyle. Vince later told OIG investigators he was unaware of Boyle's unsavory reputation. Vince must not have

read the Chicago newspapers, which reported Boyle's indictment in January 1992, on 13 counts of embezzlement, bank fraud and armored car theft. Boyle was also charged with stealing more than \$4 million from the Chicago Tollway Authority, the Chicago branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and others.

But, hey! Innocent until proven guilty, right? That's probably why, even after Boyle's indictment, Vince felt comfortable keeping company with Boyle. And why not? He arranged for Vince to hold the BATF's annual Elliott Ness birthday bash in the posh downtown Excalibur Club. At no charge. He even arranged for free costumes for everyone, and a few limousines. Vince showed his gratitude at the party by presenting Boyle with an official BATF certificate of appreciation.

The very next day, on 29 April 1992, Boyle was in U.S. District Court, records show, where Judge John Nordberg accepted Boyle's no-contest plea to all 13 counts of his indictment. Boyle went to prison and Magaw promoted Vince to headquarters, where he became chief of the firearms enforcement division, among the top five agents in BATF.

Vince's trouble handling public money continued to hound him in Washington. His top administrative assistant, it seems, was using a BATF credit card to buy consumer electronics — microwave ovens, TVs, VCRs, CD players, stereos and laptop computers; more than \$100,000 worth over a few months. She was fencing the booty at very reasonable prices to her buddies in the District of Columbia Police Department. And each month, easy-goin' Hollywood Joe was signing off on her credit card slips.

This made the D.C. newspapers, Vince got a ceremonial slap on the wrist and was shipped off to head up the BATF's tracing center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, close to where the Vince family had a retirement home. But Magaw couldn't have been too unhappy with Vince. The director approved a \$2,500 bonus for Vince in 1997. He retired in December.

JOHN MAGAW: Last, but certainly not least, "Mr. Magoo," as some less-than-respectful agents refer to their boss, may not be as dumb as he looks. He's come a long way from his start writing speeding tickets in East Cornob, Ohio. He joined the Secret Service in the early 1960s, and got assigned to presidential protection, the best one can do at that agency, except run it, which Magaw did until his appointment as BATF director in 1993.

Magaw apparently thinks he's done quite well running BATF. In 1997, he authorized himself to receive two performance awards totaling \$32,355.00 more than any other federal civil service employee for that year. *SOF* was unable to ascertain what, if any, bonuses Magaw has paid himself for 1998. BATF also refused *SOF*'s Freedom of Information Act request to provide any documentation explaining his pay bonuses for 1997, claiming that such information is exempt from disclosure. The magazine has appealed.

In any case, Magaw should have no financial worries. He's already making more each year than President Clinton, who is paid about \$200,000 annually. Magaw makes about \$125,000 a year as BATF director, plus he is receiving another \$85,000 in retirement annuity for his Secret Service career, under a special provision of the District of Columbia Police and Firefighters Retirement and Disability Act, which allows Secret Service agents working presidential protection to collect full retirement benefits after 20 years of service, regardless of age.

Magaw could face mandatory retirement, but each year, Congress grants him an extension. Despite persistent rumors, Magaw told *SOF* in January that he has no plans to retire in 1999.

— JLP



Agents Diane Klipfel and Mike Casali in storage closet to which they were assigned when they persisted in filing complaints of police corruption. Instead of investigating bad guys, who threatened to kill the two agents, and their kids, BATF took away their guns and tried to fire them. BATF Director John Magaw denied bureau retaliated against them for blowing whistle, but this photo and a mountain of documentary evidence persuaded a judge otherwise.

New York, ruled that gun manufacturers in a similar type suit would not be held liable. If Chicago's suit ever gets in front of a judge, Daley may have a few holes shot in his argument. While the tobacco companies were guilty of concealing from the public for decades evidence that their product was a health hazard, the fact that guns are potentially dangerous has never been in question. And Daley may look hypocritical for accusing gun makers of negligence when it comes out in federal court that one of the biggest gun-runners in Chicago was a city employee, and the police department was warned of that seven years ago and failed to act on it until forced to do by a major FBI corruption investigation.

Crooked And Clumsy

Miedzianowski's alleged corruption became apparent to Diane Klipfel on 20 February 1992, when she led an arrest team that included Miedzianowski and another Chicago cop named Mike Byrne, now a lieutenant. They went to the home of Darrin Pippin, a convicted cocaine dealer, to arrest him.

Pippin, who was cooperative and arrested without incident, told Klipfel several hours afterward that Miedzianowski and Byrne, during the search of his house, allegedly stole \$5,800 in cash, a leather jacket and gold and diamond jewelry. He also accused the two Chicago cops of taking his safety deposit box key to the bank and stealing \$47,000 in cash and jewelry.

Klipfel said she suspected that Pippin's allegations might be true because jewelry she had seen the two officers pick up during the search had not turned up on an inventoried property list. When Klipfel radioed Miedzianowski why he had not mentioned a safety deposit box, he at first told her the box had been searched the week before, then he said it was searched the day before.

He then said they should not discuss it over the airwaves, but in person.

Miedzianowski apparently was so unnerved by Klipfel's questions, and in such a hurry to reach her, that he broadsided the car of an innocent citizen en route. Hearing about the accident on the radio, Klipfel, with Pippin in her car, responded to the scene of the accident. Witnesses at the scene described Miedzianowski as so enraged by the allegation that he screamed at Klipfel and kicked in the door of her government car.

"Bitch, you're stupid!" he yelled at Klipfel, adding that he would say she stole the money and jewels, and had stolen off other search warrants.

"You and your husband both work in this city, remember that" Miedzianowski threatened. "You better watch your darling kids. Your house could get lit up," street slang for a drive-by shooting."

Miedzianowski then told her that if she officially accused him of corruption, "the only thing that will happen is you'll get fired ... [BATF Chicago ASAC Jimmie] Adamcik will back us all the way and your ass will be out in the street. We own fucking Adamcik." (There is ample evidence that Miedzianowski had compromised Adamcik and did "own" him: See the sidebar story.)

Brazen And Bumbling

After taking Pippin to central booking, Klipfel was confronted again by Miedzianowski outside the jail, where he allegedly threatened to kill her if she filed a complaint against him. Klipfel was so frightened by the intense sincerity of Miedzianowski's threats that when she go home that night, she and her husband, Casali, stacked bed mattresses along the walls of an interior closet and made their kids sleep there, fearing they might be hit by gunfire. When anonymous callers began telephoning more threats, they sent

their kids to live several months with relatives in another state.

Klipfel had reason to believe Miedzianowski's threats of violence. Because his threats of workplace retribution began to come true the very next day, when she filed an official complaint with Adamcik, asking that Miedzianowski be removed from her group until her allegations could be investigated.

Instead of informing Internal Affairs for BATF and the Chicago Police Department, as the law requires, Adamcik leaked the allegations to Miedzianowski's boss, Bob Dart, who then called Klipfel, not to ask about her accusations, but to ask why she was "making trouble" for "my police officers."

It was the first time in her more than 15 years with BATF at the time that Diane Klipfel, the daughter of a career police officer, had ever accused a law enforcement colleague of corruption. She was among the first women hired as agents by BATF, she had been by then a three-time finalist for top agent of the year and she was the number-one case producer among 140 agents assigned to the Chicago field division.

Death Of 1,000 Lies?

When one month passed without action — and with Miedzianowski still working for BATF — Klipfel met again with Adamcik and with the SAC, Joe Vince on 18 March 1992. She said Vince reproached her for making the allegations, told her she was "politically naïve" and said he was "ashamed" of her because she was damaging relations between BATF and the local cops.



Former BATF agent Diane Klipfel, seen here after a raid in which more than 800 stolen guns were recovered, was among bureau's best and brightest; top case-producer among 140 agents in Chicago region and three-time finalist for BATF agent of the year. Daughter of a police officer, her 16-year career essentially ended when she bucked her bosses and persisted in reporting police corruption. BATF was forced to pay her an undisclosed financial settlement, but she told them to take that job and shove it. She's now a full-time mom.

That afternoon, the first of more than 100 accusations of wrongdoing against Klipfel were made — all of them by Miedzianowski. She was relieved of her supervisory job, got a seven-day suspension and BATF's Internal Affairs began the first of several investigations — against her — not Miedzianowski. She was ultimately cleared of each and every charge, including that it was *she* who stole from Pippin.

What the investigations did confirm was interesting. Pippin's safety deposit box — Box No. 1010026 at the Albany State Bank at 3400 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago — was opened the day he said it was. When the bank was about to close, Byrne and another officer, Walter Smith, showed up with a city search warrant, No. 92 SW4727.

Bank vice president Randy Lowry later told an Internal Affairs investigator that Byrne and Smith took the unopened box out to their police car for a few moments, returned inside with an apparently unopened box and, in front of Lowry, unlocked the box with a key. The inventory Byrne signed listed \$14,000 in cash, half the amount Pipping said was there, a Rossi .38-caliber stainless steel revolver and other items. Surveillance cameras and a bank vault log later confirmed that it was Byrne and Smith who got into the box that afternoon, not Klipfel.

So far, Casali had provided moral support to his wife, but had remained quiet at work. But a coincidental stroke of luck in an unrelated investigation headed by Casali raised additional allegations of corruption by Miedzianowski. In April 1992, Casali got a call from another BATF group supervisor in Miami, Alex D'Atri. Casali had worked with D'Atri in Miami on a federal task force in 1982, when D'Atri and another agent, Ariel Rios, were shot in a motel room by Cuban drug dealers in an undercover operation that went awry. Casali burst in and shot two Cubans, saving D'Atri's life. Rios was already dead.

(Casali got an award for heroism. But years later, when BATF brought all its agents so recognized to Washington to dedicate the Ariel Rios Federal Building, Casali — who was by then out of favor at headquarters because of his wife's corruption allegations against Miedzianowski — was not invited.)

Karma Connection

In the phone call of April 1992, D'Atri told Casali he was referring to him a Miami case with a Chicago connection. Members of the Latin Lovers in Chicago apparently had conspired to trade machine guns, silencers, grenades and rocket launchers to a gang in Miami who were actually ATF undercover, in exchange for large quantities of cocaine. The confidential informant (CI) for the Miami end of the investigation had recently moved to

Chicago to work the case, and coordination was required.

Casali assigned two senior agents, Kurt Meuris and Daniel Volk, to work with the CI on the case. Casali and the other two agents met with the CI to discuss ways to develop further evidence against the Latin Lovers and its alleged leader, Pedro "Cuba" Hernandez.

The case developed slowly, until a month later, Meuris called Casali at home on a Sunday to relate a conversation he'd just had in which the CI "stated that he had



From left, BATF agents Mike Casali, Ariel Rios and Alex D'Atri in Miami, 1982, after drug bust where scores of silencers were seized. A few days after picture was made, Rios was killed by Cuban drug dealer in soured undercover deal. D'Atri, gravely wounded, was saved when Casali burst in and shot two bad guys. A call from D'Atri 10 years later set in motion an investigation which confirmed a Chicago police officer assigned to BATF — Joe Miedzianowski — was allegedly trading machine guns and silencers to Miami drug dealers for hundreds of pounds of cocaine and heroin.

met with Hernandez on the previous night and that Hernandez had related criminal allegations regarding "Joe from ATF," who had supplied them with guns and who had stolen kilos of cocaine on search warrants and given to Hernandez to sell," according to a subsequent Treasury Department investigative report obtained by *SOF*.

Casali called the CI, who repeated the conversation in which Hernandez implicated "Joe from ATF." Besides furnishing the Latin Lovers with machine guns and silencers, and splitting profits with them from the sale of cocaine which he had stolen from other drug dealers being arrested, "Joe from ATF" covered up a murder committed by one of his gang members. A taped conversation with Hernandez was subsequently obtained, this one made by Special Agent Richard Zayas in Miami, who phoned Hernandez.

In that conversation, Hernandez revealed that "Joe from ATF" was actually a Chicago police officer whom "he was attempting to get guns from."

Casali later said when he played the tape for his SAC and ASAC, Vince and Adamcik, and asked about contacting an assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) for authorization to wiretap the gang's telephones, Adamcik told him to forge the AUSA's signature on the wiretap request. Vince told him not to pass any of the information along to anyone, including the AUSA.

Casali told them he was taking the tape to the AUSA, Steve Sinott, and he did so. Sinott told Vince and Adamcik to immediately remove Miedzianowski from all BATF investigations. (It was six more months before they did so.)

The Vindication Of Heroes

Ultimately, Casali later told investigators, he advised Sinott "that I believed this investigation was compromised by ASAC Adamcik, who leaked the information directly" to Miedzianowski and another accused Chicago officer, or indirectly through a BATF agent who was close friends with them. Finally, the CI had to be pulled out for his own safety and the investigation shut down.

A Chicago P.D. Internal Affairs probe of Miedzianowski later cleared him of Klipfel's and Casali's accusations, and that's where the story remained until Miedzianowski's arrest in December. Arrests of other police officers connected to the case are expected, and the grand jury looking into the police corruption scandal, to which Casali, Klipfel and Pippin have testified, continues to meet.

The office of Byrne's business lawyer was raided by agents of the FBI and Internal Revenue Service a few weeks after *SOF*'s three-part series was published in 1996, a federal source told *SOF*, and file drawers full of financial and other records pertaining to Byrne's construction business were confiscated. As of this writing, though, Byrne, who has denied all wrongdoing, has not been charged with any crime. Miedzianowski has pleaded not guilty to a host of charges filed against him and 10 other men and one woman, all alleged gang members.

Although Casali got his job back, and he and his wife won a financial settlement from BATF, he said he didn't feel fully vindicated until Miedzianowski's arrest. He said he is just glad the FBI persisted in its police corruption investigation.

"Apparently there is some justice in the Justice Department, after all," Casali told *SOF*, referring the reporter to his attorney for any other statements.

The attorney, Sally Saltzberg, said Casali and Klipfel were not really vindicated until Miedzianowski's arrest, "because for seven years, the were considered liars. My clients are very happy." ❧



If given a choice between 10 rounds of 9mm Parabellum, or .40 S&W, or eight rounds of .45 ACP, I and most armed professionals will without hesitation choose the latter. Although its popularity was never in danger of lagging, the 88-year-old M1911 pistol and its venerable .45 caliber cartridge, have nothing if not benefited from the 10-round magazine ban.

Within a period of just the last several years, Kimber (Dept. SOF, 1 Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705; phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 914-964-9340; web site: www.kimber-america.com; 1999 catalog \$2) has established itself as the absolute leader in the crowded M1911-type arena. Its pistols surpass not only all production series competition, but far more expensive custom handguns as well. Most knowledgeable pistolsmiths know that Kimber .45s are provided with the tightest slide-to-frame tolerances of any M1911-type pistol manufactured today, without any compromise in reliability under the most adverse conditions.

Man With The Golden Gun

Kimber's Gold Match models are their finest pistols and, in my opinion, bring the M1911 pistol to its highest level of development. Kimber Gold Match series pistols are assembled in their Custom Shop. *Soldier Of Fortune* was recently sent a Gold Match

stainless steel version for test and evaluation. Don't think for a moment that this pistol's applications are limited to competition shooting only. The Gold Match series fulfills all of the requirements, including reliability under extremely adverse conditions, for a large-frame service sidearm and carry on the dark side of danger. Our test specimen received its baptism under fire at Thunder Ranch's grueling level 3 handgun course during which I fired more than 2,000 rounds in five days without a single stoppage of any kind. Clint Smith says, "In gunfighting, you'd better have a gun that works," and the Kimber Gold Match does that and much more.

The dimensions approximate those of a Colt Government Model. The overall length is 8.7 inches. The width, at the grip panels, is 1.25 inches. The 5-inch barrel has six grooves with a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. Both the forged barrel and its machined bushing are made of stainless steel. The match-grade, air-gauged barrel is hand fit to the bushing in the Custom Shop.

(Machined stainless steel bushings are now standard on all Kimber .45s.) The pistol's weight, empty, is approximately 38 ounces.

Both the slide and frame are CNC mill-finished with plus/minus 0.001-inch tolerances from 416 stainless steel forgings. Both parts are heat-treated before the rails are machined to prevent the possibility of warpage. The frame's hole spacing is exceptionally precise and the holes are machined at perfect right angles to the frame's surface. The exterior edges on the slide, frame and protruding components, including the adjustable rear sight, have been radiused and rounded. The flat sides of the slide and frame carry a high-polish finish. These parts are manufactured by Kimber Manufacturing, Inc. in Yonkers, New York. Kimber Manufacturing also provides slides and frames to Wilson Combat and Chip McCormick's CMC.

The magazine-well is beveled to assist changing magazines. The frame's feed ramp has been opened and polished, an almost standard feature on customized M1911s.

Complementing that, the barrel's chamber opening has been radiused slightly and lightly polished to remove high spots. The beavertail-type steel grip safety is internally skeletonized for weight reduction and has a slight bump on the bottom to insure that it is disconnected even if not depressed completely. It entirely cups the hammer to prevent "hammer bite" and permit as high a grip as possible. As the front strap has also been slightly relief-cut just under the rear portion of the trigger guard (a so-called "kidney cut"), the high grip permitted by these two features lowers the bore line in relation to the shooter's hand and reduces the perceived recoil somewhat.

The flat-type mainspring housing directly below the grip safety is sharply checkered and made of silver-colored Nylon 6/6 composite. It will do, but for strictly cosmetic reasons, I have changed that out with a stainless steel Ed Brown mainspring housing with 30 LPI checkering that I obtained from Brownells (Dept. SOF, 200 South Front Street, Montezuma, IA 50171; phone: 515-623-5401; fax: 515-623-3896). There is no checkering on the front strap. The grip panels on SOF's test specimen are hand-checked, double-diamond-pattern rosewood. On the very latest specimens the grip panels are held to the frame by attractive hex head grip screws.

The checkered steel magazine catch/release button is slightly higher than usual to provide access by the thumb without altering the firing grip, but not long

enough to induce an accidental release. The pistol is equipped with a McCormick skeletonized Commander-style hammer and an extended *ambidextrous* thumb safety.

The match-grade aluminum trigger has stainless steel rails and a vertically serrated front face. Trigger pull weight on our test specimen was exactly 3.25 pounds. The trigger pull is as smooth as glass with a very crisp let-off. There are dual internal tangs to provide takeup adjustment and an allen-head screw at the front to adjust backlash. All of the trigger mechanism components are of match-grade quality

Rocket Science

A number of the pistol's small components, such as the hammer, sear, disconnect, grip safety, ambidextrous manual safety, slide release and rear sight assembly, are made by means of a process called Metal-Injection-Molding (MIM), which was developed by NASA and first used by Kimber in their Model 82 .22 rimfire rifle. Delivering almost all the structural strength of steel forgings at much less cost, this process also permits the manufacture of intricate components with tight tolerances. In this process powdered chrome-moly steel is combined with a polymer carrier and then injected into a somewhat over-sized mold. During a sintering process, high temperatures extract the polymer and cause the part to shrink to exactly the desired dimensions. The resulting grain structure is more dense than that achieved by standard investment

casting techniques and after heat-treating the strength is significantly greater.

The single-column, detachable box-type magazine is an M1911-type without a removable floorplate. It holds eight rounds and has McCormick's famous Shooting Star two-piece follower and follower spring. The floorplate has two holes for the installation of magazine bumper pads.

There are deeply cut cocking serrations both fore and aft on the slide. Since this pistol is equipped with a stainless steel full-length guide rod, it cannot be "press checked" in the manner originally taught by Jeff Cooper, and thus the front cocking serrations assist in this maneuver. Wrapped around the guide rod is a Wolff silicone-chrome recoil spring. The ejection port has been lowered and flared in the now standard "custom" manner to enhance ejection reliability and protect empty cases from denting. The firing pin stop has been beefed up to provide a snug fit in the slide's extractor notch and prevent the heat-treated, custom-type extractor from rotating in the slide. A so-called "tactical"-type ejector has been mounted in the frame.

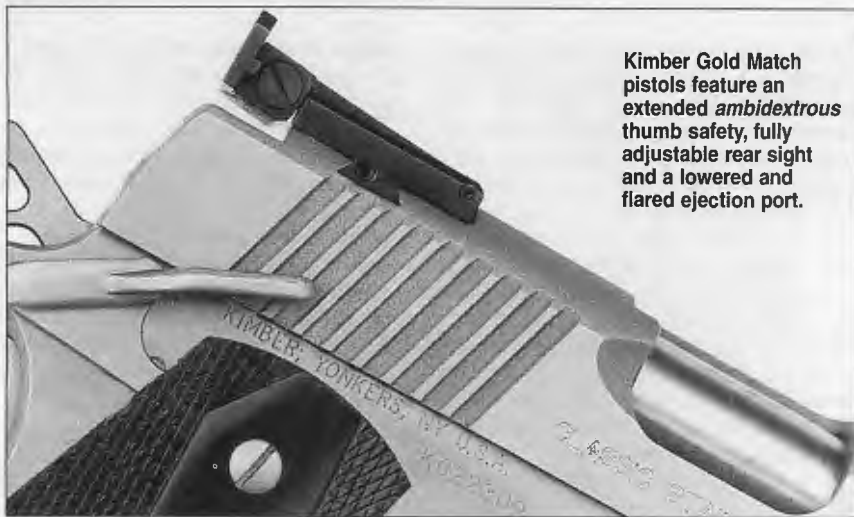
We installed a titanium firing pin manufactured by Quality Machining Inc. (QMI,

Kimber Gold Match stainless steel pistol, left side view — hand-checked, double-diamond-pattern rosewood grip panels complement the stainless steel frame and slide with their polished flats. Note the match-grade aluminum trigger, which has stainless steel rails and a vertically serrated front face.



Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 129, Sherwood, OR 97140; phone: 800-444-1911; fax: 503-590-3637) in our Gold Match Kimber. At first thought it might seem that a titanium firing pin was something designed as a gimmick for the proverbial gun nut who has everything, but this is not so. Titanium is a strong, low-density, highly corrosion-resistant, lustrous white metallic element (symbol *Ti*) that is found in igneous rocks and commonly used in aircraft alloys to provide low weight, high strength and high-temperature stability. Its melting point is 1,675 degrees Celsius.

QMI manufactures titanium firing pins for both M1911-type pistols (\$21.95) and the M16/AR-15 rifle series (\$34.95). These firing pins have a titanium-nitride hard coating that produces a gold-colored finish, with the addi-



Kimber Gold Match pistols feature an extended ambidextrous thumb safety, fully adjustable rear sight and a lowered and flared ejection port.

Our Kimber Gold Match pistol was begging for a concealment holster to match its incredible excellence. I turned to Tony Kanaley of Milt Sparks Holsters, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 605 East 44th, #2, Boise, ID 83714; phone: 208-377-5577; fax: 208-376-7386; catalog \$5) for that. I can name the great holster makers on the fingers of one hand and Tony Kanaley is among them.

Milt Sparks had been making holsters for about 15 years when Tony Kanaley went to work for him in 1983. In 1987 Tony became the shop manager and in 1989 Milt offered Tony a full partnership. In 1990 they incorporated under the name Milt Sparks Holsters, Inc.



(above) Milt Sparks NLG/"LEGACY" features a laminated construction and highly detailed hand molding which result in a thin, compact and very firm holster with excellent retention. (right) Milt Sparks PCH-R pocket concealment holster has an innovative muzzle cutout on the inside face that permits the barrel to protrude and further reduces the holster's mass.



They remained friends and partners until Milt's death on 9 September 1995 at the age of 78.

The late Bruce Nelson's "No. 1 Professional" and "Summer Special" are undoubtedly the two most copied holster designs in this country. During the 1970s when Bruce's involvement in law enforcement kept him from keeping up with the demand for his holsters, Milt Sparks was given permission to produce both of these designs. Bruce often commented to me that Milt Sparks was the only manufacturer that ever gave him open recognition and credit for these two holsters.

Tony Kanaley's NLG/"LEGACY" holster is a memorial and tribute to Bruce Nelson's No. 1 Professional holster and it is superb. To provide moisture protection, a waterproof liner is placed on the body side of the holster between the thin leather inner and outer shell. I selected a natural tan, pebble grain finish that is available at

no extra cost and is embossed by the tannery. The laminated construction and highly detailed hand molding result in a thin, compact and very firm holster with excellent retention. As a consequence, there is no need for a metal-reinforced mouth. The belt and improved tunnel loop serve to pull the pistol closer to the body for optimal concealment. The holster is equipped with full-length stitched-in sight rails. All Milt Sparks holsters are made of top-quality, grade A, vegetable-tanned cowhide and stitched with bonded nylon.

I chose the muzzle forward option as I prefer crossdraw. A crossdraw position permits the support hand to sweep aside the concealment jacket or coat without fumbling and, equally important, the shooter does not telegraph his draw stroke to potential threats on the flanks or to the rear. The trade-off is that most crossdraw rigs are somewhat more difficult to conceal than a strong side holster, as the pistol's butt faces forward, and a forward rake will usually cause the

SLAPPING LEATHER

weapon to fall slightly away from the body.

The Nelson Legacy holster costs \$90. I complemented this with a 1.5-inch belt for \$50. All Milt Sparks gun belts are cut on a contour for comfort and fit. The rig was completed with both a single-magazine pouch (\$40) for street carry and a double-magazine pouch (\$50) for competition.

Deployment of backup guns is a topic covered in Thunder Ranch's level 3 handgun course. I frequently carry one or another of a wide range of Smith & Wesson "J" frame .38 Special revolvers that I own. For this portion of the course, I selected a Model 649 stainless steel Bodyguard with

Craig Spigel "boot grips." My choice for a holster was the excellent Milt Sparks PCH-R pocket concealment holster. The PCH-R positions the revolver near the pocket's centerline, providing a thin edge profile from front to rear. The unformed outer shell blocks the revolvers outline, while light detail molding on the holster's inside face reduces bulk. An innovative muzzle cutout on the inside face permits the barrel to protrude and further reduces the holster's mass. A malleable copper wire insert has been laminated into the perimeter of the holster. This permits an individualized custom fit and enables the user to shape and mold the outer edge to maximize concealment. This unique holster costs \$50.

— P.G.K.



The beavertail-type steel grip safety entirely cups the hammer to prevent "hammer bite" and permit as high a grip as possible. Note McCormick skeletonized Commander-style hammer.

tional benefits of increased hardness from Rockwell 30c to Rockwell 80c, greater lubricity and easier cleanup. This hard coating precludes carbon fouling from adhering to the firing pin.

Because of their significantly lighter weight, these firing pins provide a demonstrably faster lock time which, in any firearm, can enhance accuracy because it improves the shooter's ability to "break the shot" on a more precise sight picture. In addition, these pins avoid the hammer-peening problems commonly associated

with steel firing pins. I have installed these titanium firing pins in all of my M16s and M1911-type pistols.

Both the ramp-type front sight blade and the Kimber-designed adjustable rear sight are dovetailed to the sight. This precludes the possibility of them flying off into the sunset at an inappropriate time. Early Colt Government Model front sights would fly off with annoying regularity until they were silver soldered in place. A quarter-century ago pistolsmiths used to attach S&W adjustable revolver sights to M1911s using one or two screws threaded to a cutout in the slide. The recoiling slide would eventually shear these screws and the sight assembly would disappear downrange. This is all in remembrance of things past, as dovetail-mounted sights ended these unpleasant occurrences.

The Kimber Gold Match adjustable rear sight is spring-loaded and driven by twin coil springs. The springs are secured by twin ball bearings, assuring that the sight will go where you tell it to and stop there. The backside of the open square-notch has horizontal serrations to reduce glare. The front sight blade is 0.112-inch wide and the open square-notch rear sight has the same width. The sight radius is 6.7 inches. Elevation zero is by means of a screw on top of the sight assembly. Turning it counter-clockwise raises the point of impact. The windage adjustment screw is on the right side of the sight. Turning it clockwise moves the point of impact to the right. A tool is provided for this purpose.

The manufacturer's suggested retail

Product List

Kimber

Dept. SOF, 1 Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705; phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 914-964-9340; web site: www.kimberamerica.com; 1999 catalog \$2

Brownells

Dept. SOF, 200 South Front Street
Montezuma, IA 50171;
phone: 515-623-5401; fax: 515-623-3896

Quality Machining Inc. QMI

Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 129,
Sherwood, OR 97140;
phone: 800-444-1911; fax: 503-590-3637

Black Hills Ammunition

Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090,
Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150
Call for location of your nearest dealer; if there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail.

Milt Sparks Holsters, Inc.

Dept. SOF, 605 East 44th, #2
Boise, ID 83714; phone: 208-377-5577;
fax: 208-376-7386; catalog \$5

price for the stainless steel Gold Match pistol is \$1,146 and that includes one eight-round stainless steel magazine. The Gold Match series is also available in caliber .40 S&W and on special order in 9mm Parabellum and .38 Super.

Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer, if there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail) once again provided all rounds I used to test the Kimber Gold Match stainless steel .45 pistol at Thunder

Ranch. For practice and training I prefer their 230-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) roundnose with a muzzle velocity of about 850 fps. While all 230-grain roundnose ball ammunition will over-penetrate as it will travel up to 26 inches in soft tissue, it remains the most reliable load you can stuff in a .45. Black Hills also offers a 185-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) with a muzzle velocity of about 975 fps and a 230-grain JHP driving out of the barrel at approximately 880 fps. Both of these JHP bullets are Speer Gold Dot types. My carry load remains the Black Hills 230-grain JHP, which will expand to almost .70 caliber and penetrate in soft tissue well past the minimum 12 inches

required, but less than the 18 inches that signifies over-penetration. ❌

KIMBER GOLD MATCH STAINLESS STEEL .45 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .45 ACP.

Operation: Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, single-action trigger system with frame-mounted thumb and grip safeties.

Weight, empty: 38 ounces.

Length, overall: 8.7 inches

Width: 1.25 inches at the grip panels.

Barrel: Six-groove, left-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches.

Barrel length: 5 inches.

Magazine: Single-column, detachable box-type magazine with eight-round capacity and McCormick's Shooting Star two-piece follower and follower spring. Provision for the installation of magazine bumper pads.

Sights: Fully adjustable rear sight; spring-loaded and driven by twin coil springs secured by twin ball bearings. Backside of the open square-notch has horizontal serrations to reduce glare. Front sight blade is 0.112-inch wide and the open square-notch rear sight has the same width. Sight radius is 6.7 inches.

Finish: Stainless steel.

Suggested retail price: \$1,146.

Manufacturer: Kimber of America, Inc., Dept. SOF, 1 Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705; phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 914-964-9340; web site: www.kimberamerica.com.

T&E summary: Kimber's finest; brings the M1911 pistol to its highest level of development. More than adequate for either competition or serious social purposes.



The Thin Red Line, by Terence Malick, is a film based on a 1962 autobiographical novel of the same title by James Jones. On 7 August 1942 the 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Against very light initial resistance, they seized the airfield then under construction by the Japanese, which would later become famous as Henderson Field. The next three months saw the Marines locked into some of the toughest and nastiest combat ever endured by American fighting men, and the adjacent seas saw some of the heaviest and bloodiest naval combat in that or any war.

In November 1942, the U.S. Army's 25th and Americal Divisions were committed to the action. James Jones was in the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Division. His book is based on his experiences in that unit, and the film is — more or less — based on that book.

In the sense of being an accurate, authentic and understandable portrayal of infantry combat as waged by the U.S. Army in late 1942, *The Thin Red Line* is not a war movie. As Colonel David Hackworth put it when we interviewed him on this film, "If this is a war movie, I'm a rocket scientist." The makers of the film seem to be quite unaware of the following:

- An infantry rifle company, especially one in a long-serving Regular Army unit like the 27th Infantry, is not a herd moving in swarm formation. It is a coherent, articulated structure. There is a chain of command: The squads have squad leaders, the platoons have platoon leaders, and the company commander works through this chain of command.

- Regarding "troop-leading procedures," it might have been particularly helpful to viewers not familiar with things military to dedicate a few minutes of this three-hour movie to show what a CO really does to earn his combat pay. Before any action, especially an attempt to take out a fortified position held by the Japanese army, the company commander holds a little meeting with a map, with his platoon leaders, artillery forward observer, and so on, to explain the situation, mission, tasks for platoons and other subordinate units, resupply, command and control, and so on. This is necessary to insure, to the extent possible, that the attack goes forward in a coordinated, properly supported manner with a minimum concession to the inevitable confusions of battle. There is basically the same drill with the battalion commander and staff, company commanders and so on before any battalion-level action.

- Fire and maneuver: In the main tactical situation shown in this movie, one would try to get continuous heavy mortar and artillery fire on the enemy position, if for no other reason than to make them keep their heads down until the advancing infantry is within short assaulting distance of the objective. In some of the other situations in this film, the tactical situation is really not explained at all. This is not a case of the very real confusions of battle, but flawed story-telling by the script-writers.

- Concentration of effort: One does not keep the bulk of the company huddled up in a ravine, inviting their being wiped out by a few rounds of incoming mortar or artillery fire, and send a six-or seven-man element out to overrun the objective.

Nick Nolte's portrayal of Lieutenant Colonel Tall, the battalion commander, is a grotesque, two-dimensional caricature of a ranting, ambition-crazed, insecure madman. As Col. Hackworth put it, "From my experience, Col. Tall raving like he did, like a maniac, would have lasted no more than one minute before one of his own soldiers put a round between his eyes."

Unduly ambition-driven officers do exist. In my experience they usually turn it inward and present a cool, lofty, detached facade to the world. It is barely within the limits of imagination that an officer like this loon could have been around, even at this

Continued on page 73

THE THIN RED LINE

SOF Goes To The Movies

by Alex McColl

PHOTOS BY MERIE W. WALLACE/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX





Crack Troops

Colombia's
Comando
Especial del
Ejercito

Text & Photos by Steve Salisbury

Colombia's National Police has received more headlines in the "war on drugs" than the military. But the Colombian armed forces have played an important anti-narcotics role. Army troops have been involved in knocking out some of Colombia's largest illicit drug labs and have arrested a number of drug kingpins.

And the anti-narcotics role of the Colombian military is growing, in the face of mounting evidence that leftist guerrillas are building their war chest by protecting drug labs and other narco installations, as well as by taxing narcotics crops and infrastructure.

However, the shine of the Colombian military's achievements was obscured by a dark cloud last November. During that month, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and customs agents searched a Colombian Air Force C-130 Hercules cargo plane that had landed in Fort Lauderdale and reportedly discovered at least some 415 kilos of cocaine and 6 kilos of heroin stashed on board. Several Colombian Air Force officers and NCOs were arrested in the United States and Colombia, and it later surfaced in the Colombian press that a retired American military officer in Florida was allegedly involved. Though not implicated in the crime, Colombia's Air Force commander resigned.

Denying any institutional involvement — of which no evidence appeared — Colombia's military high command suspended the "bad apples" and reiterated that it is determined to fight drug traffickers, whoever they may be.

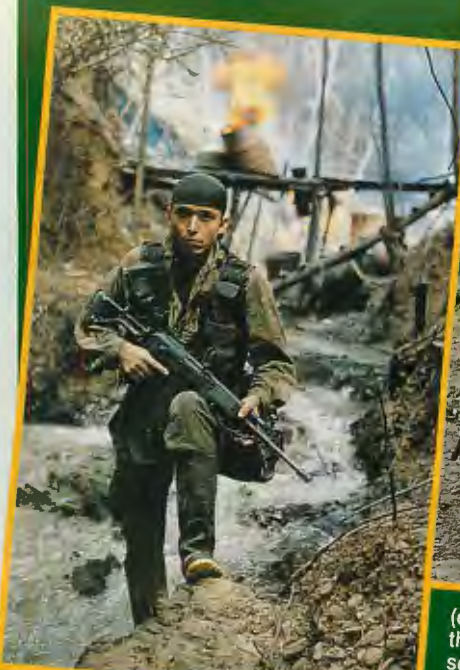
Anti-Narc Battalion

To back up this vow, Colombia's Defense Minister, Rodrigo Lloreda, and armed forces chief, General Fernando Tapias Stahelin, have announced plans to form a special army battalion of between 800 and 1,000 troops, with the primary task of anti-narcotics missions. Depending on

questions of funding and how fast the U.S. government can provide aid to outfit this battalion, it could come into existence and start carrying out operations sometime before the year 2000.

Defense Minister Lloreda says the planned formation of this battalion isn't part of counter-insurgency strategy per se and that it isn't an attempt to bring the United States into direct anti-guerrilla operations. However, there is an urgent need for such a battalion, argue Colombian military officers, for it would seem to be much better suited to handle the necessary military missions of fighting against large numbers of heavily armed guerrillas who may protect drug labs.

What has gone largely unnoticed outside Colombia is that the Colombian army already has a special anti-narcotics unit made up of about 80 men—and that this unit has received high praise from the DEA. It is

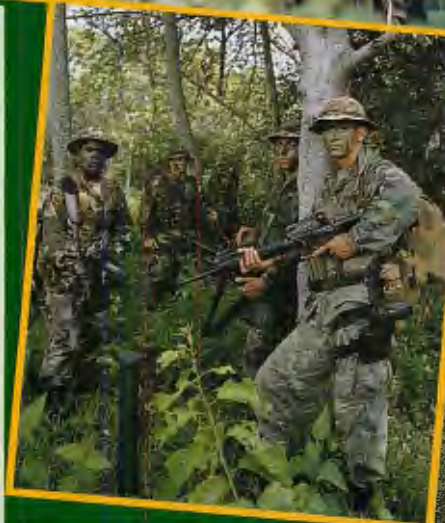


(clockwise from top left) Dante's Inferno in the jungle. Colombian army counter-guerrilla scout, armed with an Israeli-made Galil rifle, moves down creek as remnants of a cocaine lab burn behind him. CEE forces, armed with grenade launchers, return from destroying a small coca-leafing processing lab, known as a "chagra." Colombian army special forces anti-narcotics troops near the western city of Jamundi stand in front of a Brazilian-made Cascabel infantry fighting vehicle, which is armed with a 90mm cannon and 7.62x51mm co-axial machine gun. Troops of the Colombian army's elite Special Forces anti-narcotics unit CEE are armed with M16s, M249 SAWs, South African-made grenade launchers, Portuguese-made 60mm "com-mando" mortars, and H&K sniper rifles. Colombian army CEE sniper takes aim with an H&K G-3 rifle mounted with Nimrod scope. CEE commandos have high marksmanship scores.



called the *Comando Especial del Ejercito* (CEE), or the Army's Special Command, in English. If an army anti-narcotics battalion is indeed formed, it is almost certain to draw on the experience of the CEE.

Trained for both rural and urban combat, the CEE has a unique role carrying out tasks traditionally the domain of police. Besides destroying drug labs in the jungle, it carries out numerous urban operations. It tracks down drug-trafficking suspects; searches homes, discoteques, bars and other places for drugs; executes judicial warrants to embargo narco-properties; mounts highway check points; participates in the rescue of kidnapping victims, etc.



Life With the CEE

For a total of about six weeks between late August and 15 November, I lived with the CEE, at its secret base on the outskirts of Cali, Colombia's third-largest city and (according to many law enforcement officers) perhaps

the world's cocaine capital. I accompanied CEE troops, as well as other special "counter-guerrilla" soldiers, on missions that destroyed illicit drug labs in insurgent-infested territory. I also accompanied the CEE on urban operations.

All of this information cannot be crammed into one magazine article. So, for now, I'll give a glimpse of what some call the cream of the cream of Colombia's military elite units: the *Comando Especial del Ejercito*.

The CEE is one of the few units its size that answers directly to the military's high command, and has autonomy to operate independently of other units. However, sometimes it coordinates operations with the Army's Third Brigade, based in Cali. The CEE has a command staff of about a half-dozen officers. At the time of this writing, it is led by a lieutenant colonel, who has previously served in important intelligence positions. He prefers to remain anonymous, as do the CEE's intelligence personnel.

The CEE's intelligence section numbers about a dozen or so officers and specialists. They include undercover operatives, surveillance experts, cameramen, analysts, and a couple of radio-scanning whizzes. Some



Colombian army CEE Special Forces anti-narcotics officers Captain Alberto Romero (left) and Lieutenant Mauricio Ordonez (right) prepare to rappel in a training exercise from the roof of a four-story building on the outskirts of Cali, Colombia's third largest city and believed by many today to be the world's principal cocaine clearing station.

of these men are cross-trained to carry out more than one of these specialties. Most of the CEE's information is obtained from confidential tips, according to intelligence officers, but the two radio-scanning whizzes, who painstakingly intercept phone and radio communications of suspected drug dealers, have been crucial to many of the CEE's triumphs.

The CEE's combat operations muscle is provided by "E" Company, 1st Battalion, Special Forces. E Company has about 60 troops, called commandos, including a captain, one or two lieutenants, and several NCOs. It is made up of two detachments of about 30 troops each. Each detachment consists of two sections. Each section has about 14 to 16 men and is subdivided into "teams" of three to five commandos.

The standards are high, to be selected to E Company. Only Special Forces troops can apply. Commandos have to have combat experience, be in excellent physical condition, and have an unblemished record, before they can be considered for selection by a board of the Special Forces Brigade. Along with this, officers have to have passed the rigorous Lancero and Paratrooper courses. Integrity is paramount,

Operation Pegasus

The Andean mountain terrain of the Cordillera Occidental, some 45 kilometers south of Colombia's third-largest city, Cali, was difficult, recalls Colombian army special forces Captain Alberto Romero Paez. With elevations of 1,000 to 2,000 meters, it was steep, muddy, and clogged with vegetation. It was also rainy and cold.

But the barrel-chested, no-nonsense commander of the Colombian army's "E" Company, 1st Battalion, Special Forces had information that somewhere nearby there was a cocaine laboratory, and that the laboratory was protected by a column of the 6th Front of the country's strongest guerrilla faction, the Revolutionary Armed Forces Of Colombia, known by its Spanish acronym FARC. This was precisely the tough, dangerous situation for which Capt. Romero's men had been trained.

Forming the armed fist of the Colombian army's elite anti-narcotics unit, the *Comando Especial del Ejercito* (CEE), Capt. Romero's mission was to destroy the lab — breaking through guerrilla resistance, if necessary. The name of this mission: Operation Pegasus, and it began during final days of May 1998.

How many guerrillas were in the area? Capt. Romero couldn't say until a scouting party of Sergeant Oscar Rios and three other Special Forces commandos climbed back in the early evening from a foray into a valley and reported that a peasant in an adobe hovel had said that there were between 60 and 80 guerrillas armed with automatic rifles. The middle-aged peasant also mentioned a tantalizing tip: Tomorrow morning the guerrillas were planning to hold a meeting in a modest school house a couple of kilometers away to threaten villagers not to vote in imminent elections.

Hitting Guerrillas Hard

Captain Romero's force numbered only 42 men, who were dispersed in small groups in the hills, and carried only one day's food rations. But Capt. Romero saw an opportunity to hit the guerrillas hard, and he was determined not to miss it. At 0300 hours, shivering cold in wet green camouflage uniforms and face paint, Captain

Romero and his men moved out from their makeshift camp. At about dawn, they arrived a few dozen meters from the schoolhouse and staked it out, blending in with the surrounding weeds. However, no guerrillas appeared. Captain Romero ordered his men to advance in three prongs along the high ground for another couple of kilometers west. The prong of his executive officer, Lieutenant Mauricio Ordonez, questioned some Indians in a green-painted cement one-story home, but received no information about guerrillas and drug labs. Capt. Romero was about to call for helicopters to extract everyone, when a commando with Captain Romero's prong — which had sub-divided into groups of three or four men — spotted something strange through binoculars, from his hilltop vantage point. The something that Commando Hincapie, an athletic 12-year veteran, saw was actually someone crawling about 500 yards below. Then others came into view. They were guerrillas! Capt. Romero believed there were about eight, wearing dark uniforms, crouching along a fence-line.

Wanting to surround them before opening fire, Capt. Romero radioed Lt. Ordonez to envelop the guerrillas. But the guerrillas also seemed to know that soldiers were approaching, for they were preparing ambushes along a red dirt road and not allowing peasants to pass. In fact, it appeared to Capt. Romero, who patiently studied the guerrilla preparations through his binoculars, that the guerrillas even had some peasants hack bushes down, evidently to clear fields of fire.

Captain Romero informed Lt. Ordonez blow by blow, and Ordonez and his prong took many twists and turns, descending toward their objective, coming upon a small hill, surrounded by bigger hills. Then Capt. Romero saw something to his horror, and his heartbeat surged.

His dear friend, Lt. Ordonez, and a commando nicknamed Pato were going to bump into a couple of guerrillas laying in wait, in a clump of vegetation, two dozen meters or so away. Capt. Romero frantically radioed Lt. Ordonez to watch out. Then *BOP, BOP, BOP, BOP, BOP*. The echo of gunfire reverberated against the green Andean slopes. Captain Romero and his men feared for the lives of their comrades. But courage, superb training, excellent physical condition, determination and luck tipped the scales in favor of the commandos.

"Two are 10 meters in front of you!" said my captain," recalls Lt. Ordonez, his bright dark eyes flashing and his tight compact body tensing at the memory. "We bent over and advanced through

and CEE members are periodically given lie-detector tests.

There is a long line to join E Company, and no wonder. E Company is perhaps the best-armed infantry unit of the Colombian army. While its mix of weaponry differs from the police's small elite anti-narcotics Jungle Command unit (which appears to be overtly given more U.S. support) [see *SOF* July '98 and January '99 issues], E Company can blast out a level of firepower comparable to the Jungle Command's.

Israeli-made Galil and German-made H&K rifles are standard issues for the Colombian armed forces. But the standard individual armament for an E Company commando is a U.S.-made M16A2, with six magazines and a reserve of 400 rounds; a 9mm Beretta pistol with six 15-round magazines; two U.S.-made M67 or M26 handgrenades, and a stun grenade. Each commando also is issued a U.S.-manufactured Blackhawk Kevlar bullet-proof vest and a



CEE forces counts bricks of cocaine confiscated in an illegal laboratory, in the western Cauca Province, by Comando Especial del Ejército troops.

courtesy CEE

U.S.-made Defense Technology Corporation gas mask (for when tear gas is used). Each section is armed with two South African-made 40mm revolver-style grenade launchers (30 grenades for each grenadier); one American-made M249 SAW and an

and scopes, including AVN-912-Plus, AVN-908, Tasco and Lunos binoculars, ANA-PAQ4 laser point sights, and Litton Ranger night-vision scopes (to mount on either

Continued on page 70

the meter-high grass. I stood up a little to look for them, and they opened fire. It sounded like AK fire. We could feel the bullets hitting the blades of grass around us. Commando Pato and I fired back from about two or 3 meters. Everyone was motivated and looked for cover, to advance. At first, we fired a lot to establish fire superiority. It's important to take advantage of the first 10 seconds of combat to not lose the opportunity of contact. The subversives also fired a lot, at first."

Guerrillas Let Loose

Lt. Ordonez's prong was caught in a guerrilla crossfire, as guerrillas on a hill some 200 meters behind him started to blast away at his position. Captain Romero and his group advanced, to support Lt. Ordonez's group and cut off the guerrillas' rearguard. The commandos let loose with everything: M-249 SAW machine guns, M-16s, South African-made 40mm grenade launchers. Guerrilla gunfire started to tail off, and the guerrillas began to retreat. The fire-fight had commenced about noon and lasted about two hours.

"I advanced some more," recounts Lt. Ordonez, "and saw blood trails in the grass. There was also blood at the bottom of a small ravine."

According to Capt. Romero, whose men intercepted guerrilla radio communications, two guerrillas had been killed.

But that wasn't the finish of the day's shooting, remembers Capt. Romero. The commandos encountered sporadic sniper fire during the afternoon. At about 1600 hours, when a UH-1H Huey was descending on a hardscrabble soccer field to begin extracting the troops, a couple of sniper rounds hit the Huey. Capt. Romero's group fired a high explosive projectile from a Portuguese-made 60mm "commando" mortar and raked a hill some 300 meters away with M249 MG fire; the guerrillas' gunfire stopped.

Capt. Romero and his men returned to Cali that evening, but that wasn't the end of the search for the cocaine lab. The next day, more information came, confirming the whereabouts of the lab. It was about a couple of dozen kilometers south of where Capt. Romero's force had clashed with the guerrillas, CEE intelligence officers believed. The CEE's commander, an army lieutenant colonel whose post is so sensitive that he prefers to remain anonymous, gave the green light. Operation Pegasus II was born, and the CEE would hit pay dirt.

This time, instead of being inserted by one Black Hawk and one

Huey UH-1H helicopters as before. Capt. Romero's force left in customized Ford Model 350 trucks, in three sections, at about 0300 hours. They rode to a staging area several kilometers outside the town of Aguas Blancas. The Pichincha Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Leonardo Barrero, was within striking distance, in case the CEE needed reinforcements. There was information that the area had heavy guerrilla presence. In fact, Third Brigade troops, in operations directed by General Jaime Canal, had clashed with guerrillas. So, the commandos disembarked and started to hoof it — carefully watching their steps. Not long after daybreak, climbing up a hill, the commandos spotted a dirty, white modest adobe house about 150 meters away. It was on a plateau, across a hollow.

"We saw lots of people fleeing from the house. They were laboratory workers, and we received gunshots," recalls Capt. Romero. Commandos fired back, though not at the house, stresses Capt. Romero, to stop the stampede of suspects. As a commando M-249 machine-gunner laid down suppressing fire, Lt. Ordonez, Sgt. Wilmer Altamar, and their men advanced over broken terrain, in a flanking movement.

"Don't move, don't move, nothing is going to happen to you!" shouted Sgt. Altamar, as his group burst into the house, detaining 14 people cowering inside. They were unarmed and didn't resist. But the sinewy sergeant, a veteran of Colombia's famous battle of Casa Verde, wasn't about to take chances. He searched the four-room one-story house with full security precautions. In a barrel of coffee beans, he and his men found a kilo of cocaine.

The People Confess

The people then confessed to the troops that the laboratory was in a house-complex nearby. Lt. Ordonez and several troops went to search it. No one was there. Only machinery, chemicals and traces of cocaine were found. But, just before judicial authorities and CEE intelligence specialists, who had been flown in by helicopter to collect evidence, were about to leave, a specialist obtained a last-minute lead that a cache was buried near the house where the people were detained.

The commandos found one. It contained about 200 kilos of cocaine — the finished merchandise — according to Capt. Romero.

It was one of the CEE's biggest successes of the year — and no commandos were killed or wounded.

— Steve Salisbury

Concealed Handguns: What you need to know.

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"The Newspaper Carry"



Author Steven L. Argiriou is an Indiana Police Officer, Former NYPD Street Cop, Law School Graduate and Major, Armed Forces Reserve

B-1s Over Baghdad

Continued from page 39

Hussein was going to thumb his nose again at U.N. weapons inspectors last November, four B-1s, two each from Dyess and Ellsworth, were flown to Southwest Asia.

The day after hostilities began on 17 December, two more B-1s, one from each base, were loaded with Mk 82 bombs and flown non-stop to SWA.

On the eve of the air campaign, one of the original four bombers (a Dyess B-1) broke an axle on landing after a training mission. The situation was "mission critical," because one of the bombers was designated as a "can bird," a bomber that was being cannibalized for critical parts. That left only two Lancers for action.

Since B-1s fly in pairs, it was imperative that the broken bomber be repaired immediately. It was needed as a spare in the event one of the two remaining bombers couldn't take off for mechanical reasons in the next 24 to 36 hours.

After surveying the damage, Lieutenant Colonel Garrett Harencak, the operations officer of the 9th Bomb Squadron, asked his maintenance personnel how long it would take to make the broken bomber the "can bird," and take parts from it and make it the spare. Harencak was told, "if everything goes perfect, you can have it in 48 hours."

Without telling the maintenance crews the air war against Iraq was about to kick off, Harencak told them he had to have the aircraft ready in 24 hours. "As I walked back to my tent that night, I saw runners going to each tent in the maintenance area and pulling guys out," said Harencak who served as Operations Officer for the 28th Air Expeditionary Operations Squadron.

With no cranes and minimal equipment in an austere environment, the maintenance crews completed "Mission Impossible" in 17 hours.

As a result, some of the maintenance personnel will be recommended for Joint Commendation Medals and Achievement Medals. Ironically, the B-1 that was re-built made history the next night when it became the first B-1 to drop bombs on Iraq.

Barracks Busters

The 28th Air Expeditionary Group consisted of six B-1s and about 650 support personnel from 19 bases stateside, the majority from South Dakota and Texas.

Since Ellsworth was the lead B-1 base for this operation, and because this was an historic mission for the B-1s, one of its crews was chosen to lead the first night's strike on 18 December, 1998. Axl Hoyt would fly in the "wedge" as the wingman.

According to a prior agreement with his counterpart at the 37th Bomb Squadron, a 9th Bomb Squadron B-1 would fly lead the second night, and Lt. Col. Harencak would lead that strike against another series of Republican

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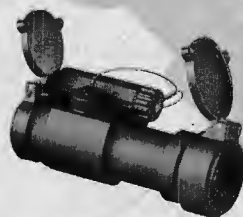
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Guard barracks near the site of the previous night's attack.

Capt Gordon Greaney and the Mission Planning Cell put together a seven day campaign, but only four of the eight four-man crews who flew to Southwest Asia were able to fly combat sorties during what ended up being only a three-day air campaign.

"Had it gone on longer, we would have given everybody a combat sortie, but we wound up flying only two nights," said Harencak.

The 9th BS, known in B-1 circles as the "Bats," likes to attack at night like its namesake. Harencak, whose tactical call sign is "Sak," is a former B-52 pilot who has spent the past 10 years in the B-1.

Now that the B-1 has been "blooded," senior officers in the Air Force believe the B-1 will become the "weapon of choice" among war-fighting CINCs who want to put a "lot of iron" on targets quickly, and enormous flexibility.

B-1s at Ellsworth are now being equipped with "JDAM," the next generation of smart bomb, a 2,000 pounder that is guided to the target by GPS, Global Positioning Satellite systems.

"We also have the capability of being able to fly in without tanker support, something other strike aircraft can't do," said Harencak who had plenty of gas to spare after flying a 6.5-hour combat sortie to Iraq and back.

B-1s can come from CONUS, the Continental United States, and bomb Iraq if necessary in about 17 hours.

There are fears in the Stealth community that the F-117A Nighthawk is no longer the "darling" of the Air Force. In fact, one Stealth pilot who sat at Holloman AFB, N.M., waiting for orders to deploy last December. The orders never came, and the pilot told *SOF*, "Maybe they don't need us anymore."

The B-1 is not a "Stealth"-type aircraft, but its radar cross-section is smaller than most strike aircraft in the US inventory today. And it can carry 24 JDAMs compared to Nighthawks, which can carry only two 2,000-pound precision-guided munitions. Simple math tells you which aircraft is likely to be chosen in future conflicts.

"We proved we are the premier strike aircraft in the world today," said Harencak who says follow on weapons upgrades will only enhance the B-1s lethal capability.

Harencak predicts young lieutenants like "Spanky" Mankus will see combat through the rest of their career in the B-1 as opposed to lieutenant colonels who like himself have probably seen their first and only combat sortie in the B-1.

"As we Roaxed (timed) our package, 'Bear-31,' a Navy lieutenant commander who was leading the strike package in an F/A-18 Hornet from the aircraft carrier, *U.S.S. Enterprise*, kept shoving our start time back," said Harencak.

Continued on page 72

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Vienna before spring.

Half expecting the sort of slop *SOF* received when we were guests of the Russian army last year, we were surprised when fresh-baked bread, fruit juice and sausages that would make any German butcher envious appeared on our table.

Our chef, "cookie," as we nicknamed him, had worked his way up from dishwasher to head cook at a truck stop alongside some autobahn in Germany before returning to Kosovo late last year to fight.

"You better eat now," one soldier told us before he went out on his patrol one morning, "it might be the last meal you have!" We noted his advice and chowed down accordingly.

Central Command, Individual Logistics

Unlike conventional armies that rely upon central logistical centers to supply them with everything from food to firepower, the KLA works on a hybrid model.

Each battalion, company, brigade, whatever any commander wants to call the assortment of men and equipment under his command, answers to a central command structure headquartered in either Germany or Switzerland. That much *SOF* could confirm. While the KLA obviously had senior commanders in-theater, all

major decisions were made abroad.

Dr. Sosi was in regular sat-phone communications with someone in central Europe, and it wasn't just idle conversation.

Each commander, in fact each soldier, is expected to be self-sufficient in weaponry and uniform. Money for that comes from a highly sophisticated collection and banking system set up by Kosovar Albanian guestworkers in Germany and Switzerland. The KLA will never be defeated for a lack of money.

Few soldiers enter the KLA without a uniform or a weapon. Ammo comes into each KLA unit in drips and drabs, hand-carried or smuggled in the chassis of the Mercedes which regularly make the two-day trip from Central Europe. The pipeline which early on supplied weapons to the KLA from Albania proper has all but dried up. Weapons are now entering the province through either Macedonia or Montenegro.

"It's too dangerous," Capt. Maloku said in reference to our mentioning *SOF*'s summer mission to northern Albania. "I think 13 fighters were killed last week at the border trying to cross into Kosovo from Albania. If that was our primary route, we'd all be dead by now."

The Future?

As our week with the KLA wound down it was easy to paint a picture of this guerrilla army that would almost parallel the experience *SOF* had with the Bosnian army dur-

ing its early days of existence in 1992.

While the KLA had worked its way up the ladder to the first rung that allowed it to be viewed as a semi-successful guerrilla force, it had yet to work out the complex transition required to take the next step — to transform itself into a real army.

It would be unrealistic to expect the KLA — in its present state — to be able to coordinate troop movements, centralize supply shipments or even take on the Serbs in a head-to-head battle.

That may be so, one Western military observer in Pristina told *SOF* upon our return, "but the KLA — as it stands today — is exactly where it needs to be to defeat the Serbs."

"It'll be by attrition," the observer told us. "The Albanians have a birth-rate much higher than the Serbs. They've got motivation, as well. As many martyrs as Serbs have created, shit, the KLA will need another century to avenge their deaths."

But as Dr. Sosi said to *SOF* on our last day in Retmilje, and as we've heard time and time again during our nearly one year of covering the conflict in Kosovo, "we're [the KLA] not fighting that kind of war."

"This isn't a war of offensives to take territory. We already have Kosovo," Dr. Sosi said, pointing at a map on the wall of his office. "This is a battle to keep the Serbs from destroying us."

Mark H. Milstein is SOF's chief foreign correspondent. ✕



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I Was There

Continued from page 32

Clouds parted briefly. Faint moonlight shone. The flooding Cibolo seemed to be miles wide. Our hand-held radio crackled.

"We see your light," radioed Billy Bob. He and seven firemen were on "Kong," the lead truck. A highly modified military-surplus 5-ton, it sported yellow paint, roll cages, battering-ram bumper (for small trees), a large water tank with pump, fire-hoses and other gear. Kong had broken the current head-on — until it turned off Dry Hollow Road and exposed its side to the relentless water. The second truck, also military surplus but unmodified, had stalled and was pushed off the road even before the turn. A wide stretch of water separated them.

Kong sat against a submerged fence, water up to its headlights, but otherwise stable. Billy Bob and his firemen were OK for now.

"Tell him we're going to the other truck," Edwin said to Mark, who held the radio.

About 20 yards out I stood up and tossed a "throw bag" of rescue rope. A LaVernia fireman grabbed it and secured the yellow line, just in case. The truck didn't look all that stable. We approached slowly. Kneeling, I reached out and grabbed a truck door. We docked.

It wasn't that these guys weren't equipped for flood rescue. The truck carried an aluminum fishing boat with motor, a

small inflatable boat, and a Jet Ski. The senior fireman wore a wetsuit like mine; he'd had water-rescue training, too. But Murphy's Law was in effect.

"The boat got a hole knocked in it," the LaVernia fireman said, shining his flashlight along the aluminum.

As long as it didn't snag a submerged fence, the Jet Ski possibly could have towed their inflatable boat. But the machine wasn't going anywhere. "The [ignition] key is over on Kong," he added.

"OK, here's the deal," Edwin said. "We can only take two of you this trip. We gotta fight a bad current on the way back. I don't want to try it with a full load, yet."

His caution was justified. A half-hour ago, immediately after launching from a neighborhood on the edge of LaVernia, Nick, Scott, Mark, and I had to paddle furiously for 100 yards as Edwin fought the cross-current with the motor. Once we passed stands of trees (and two submerged houses) we simply moved from eddy to eddy until reaching open water.

Scott made a medical decision: The two youngest firemen, a boy and girl who looked all of 18, would go first. Both were shivering under their life vests from cold and fright.

"We'll be fine," the senior fireman assured us. His partner wore a hooded Gore-Tex jacket. Neither of them would go hypothermic. If worse came to worse — if their truck started to roll over — they could cast off in their rubber boat and go

with the flow.

I pushed us away. "We'll be back," Edwin said.

By daybreak we had made four more trips, at least 10 miles total. We retrieved Billy Bob and the rest of his boys. We also took two young women and a small dog from a mobile home not far from Kong. The building sat on concrete blocks, but water inside was 2 feet deep and rising.

Wilson County's flood lasted two days. Law-enforcement officers, dozens of volunteer firemen and EMTs, and county road crews worked nonstop. There were a few rescues by helicopter. The normally tranquil Cibolo Creek broke its flood record; on the other side of Wilson County, the San Antonio River fell just short of its record. The creek and river never before had flooded simultaneously.

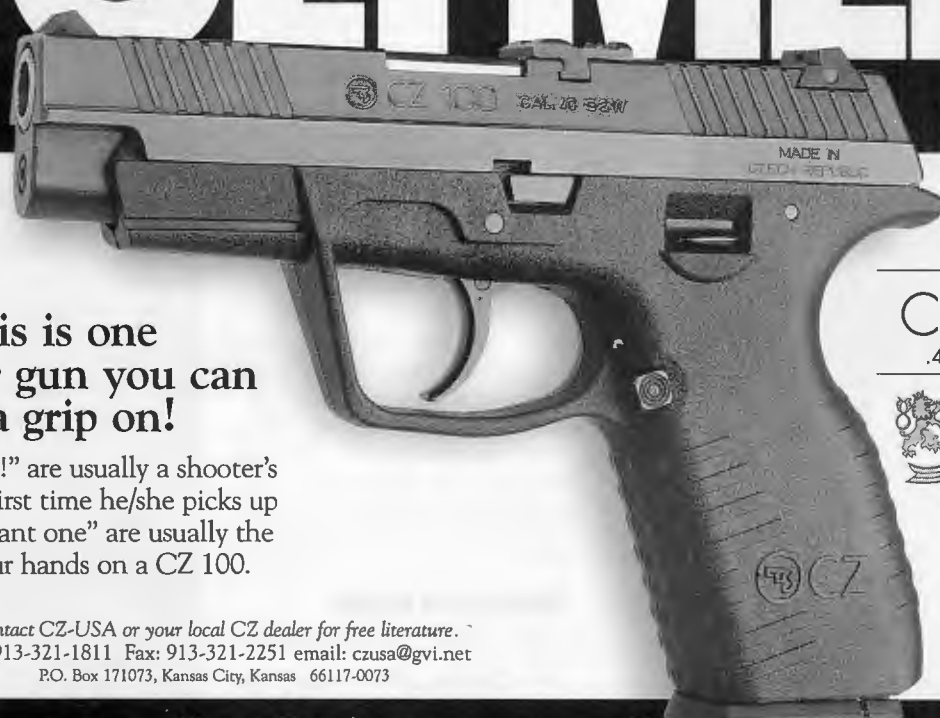
Some 350 homes and numerous farms, ranches, and small businesses were hit — but nobody died.

Volunteer fire departments, including LaVernia's and Floresville's, evacuated a number of civilians from harm's way. The ERT's Zodiac-boat crews, operating in Wilson and neighboring Guadalupe County, altogether brought in 24 people and two dogs.

Wearing a wetsuit for 18 straight hours probably was no big deal for somebody like Capt. Bailey, the former SEAL. But it was a new experience for this bubba.

Newspaper editor Marty Kufus is SOF's contributing editor for America. ✕

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Crack Troops

Continued from page 65

M16s or M249s). Sections also carry Silva Global Positioning System (GPS) devices.

Rigorous Training

But hardware is little without training, and E Company trains extensively. While not on operations, commandos have an obligation to do strenuous calisthenics and run 2 to 5 miles per day (except on Saturdays and Sundays). Commandos train and re-train in pistol and rifle marksmanship, rappelling, and urban and rural combat. To the date of this writing, only one of the unit's members has been reportedly killed in combat during the last few years. E Company commander Captain Alberto Romero Paez attributes this high survival rate, in great part, to training.

Drug traffickers have certainly been feeling the CEE's punch. Just from 1 January to 31 October 1998, according to CEE statistics, 1,566 kilos of cocaine (either the finished product or in the process of being made), 11 cocaine "crystalizer" and "chagra" coca-leaf processing laboratories, and one heroin "kitchen" with about a kilo of pure heroin, were destroyed. That adds up to some big money lost by the drug dealers. (One kilo of cocaine is worth about \$25,000 on U.S. streets, say officers, and a kilo of heroin runs between \$85,000 and \$120,000 there.) Some 27,856 gallons and 4,713 kilos of drug-making precursor chemicals were also destroyed. Fourteen firearms, three cars, 21 motorcycles, and about one million dollars (both in U.S. and Colombian currencies) were reportedly confiscated. And 53 suspects were arrested, the CEE reports.

According to an Agence France Presse story, 1,566 kilos — or 1.566 metric tons — of coke is a small fraction of the approximately 55 tons of cocaine that Colombia's police reported to have captured and destroyed in 1998. And 55 tons, in turn, is a small fraction of the approximately 638 tons of cocaine estimated to have been smuggled out from Colombia during the first 11 months of 1998, according to a dispatch by the Spanish news agency EFE. (A police estimate put this smuggling figure above 322 tons from January to November 1997.)

But for such a small unit, with an operating budget in 1998 of fewer than \$100,000 dollars, the CEE's results speak for themselves, says its commander. The CEE has earned letters of commendation not only from the chief of the Colombian armed forces, but from high-ranking U.S. federal law enforcement officials as well. In fact, the CEE has surpassed its yearly quota, says one officer.

Sneaking Up On Druggies

What has perhaps most impressed

Continued on next page

CEE Success Stories

The CEE was originally created as part of the Joint Special Command, a combined police-army-marine anti-narcotics force, known by its Spanish initials CEC. The CEC, popularly known as the *Bloque de Búsqueda* (Search Block in English), was formed to attack Colombia's most powerful cocaine organizations of the early and middle 1990s: the Medellín and Cali cartels. The word "cartels" may lead one to think of formal entities, but Colombian drug cartels are mostly autonomous, fluid collections of families and associates, and the Medellín and Cali cartels proved masters at using extraordinary street smarts, skill and violence to rise to the top of the underworld.

No drug kingpin before or since has shaken Colombia like Pablo Escobar, the leader of the Medellín cartel. A war between him and the state cost the lives of about 4,000 people, according to some reports. Teenage assassins killing cops and exploding car bombs in major cities reached a terrifying peak. But in Dec. 1993, the *Bloque de Búsqueda* gunned Pablo Escobar down in Medellín. And, in 1995, Cali cartel leaders Miguel and Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela were arrested, and José Santacruz Londoño was killed after escaping from jail.

The Medellín and Cali cartels, which had also been waging a vicious war against each other, were thrown into disarray, and the cocaine business was "atomized," according to Colombia's National Police Chief, General Rosso J. Serrano. Ever since, a number of clans — mostly small and medium-sized — have been vying to fill the vacuum, with the Norte del Valle cartel (which operates in Valle de Cauca province, where Cali is the provincial capital) and what's left of the Cali cartel evidently becoming engaged in a bloody gangland-style power struggle.

Even before most of the leaders of the Medellín and Cali cartels were imprisoned, killed or forced on the run, the police, army and marine components of the CEC were largely carrying out operations separately. A year ago, or so, this was underscored when the army component's new commander dropped the word "joint" from his unit's name and began to call it the *Comando Especial del Ejército* (CEE). (However, the CEE is still often called the CEC or *Bloque de Búsqueda* in the press, and even in the army itself). "We were achieving big successes, and others were taking credit for them," says a CEE officer, who prefers to remain anonymous. The CEE is now getting credit long overdue.

— Steve Salisbury

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American anti-narcotics agents, says Capt. Romero, is that the CEE captures drug-lab workers *in flagrante*. "This is very hard to do," he says. "But we in the CEE are trained in special-forces infiltration techniques and have special discipline to sneak up on laboratories and surprise their workers."

The perhaps most important arrest made by the CEE in recent years took place not in the jungle, but in Bogota, Colombia's capital and largest city (population about 7 million). Last July, CEE commandos, wearing plain clothes and drawing submachine guns out from hand-carried cases or bags, nabbed Juan Manuel Herrera Moncada, the half-brother of the Cali cartel's reputed third or fourth most important figure, Helmer "Pacho" Herrera. Despite being an invalid, Juan Manuel (also called Jose Manuel) was believed to be an important Cali cartel member in his own right, allegedly having taken over much of the cartel's finances.

The CEE had tracked him down from Cali. It turned out to be a fateful event that led to a bloody change in the course of drug kingpin history.

For last November, in a supposedly high-security Bogota prison, Juan Manuel reportedly fired a smuggled-in pistol and killed Orlando Henao Montoya, a reputed leader of the Norte del Valle cartel. It appeared to be a reprisal for the murder nine days earlier of Pacho Herrera, Juan Manuel's half-brother, in the Palmira prison near Cali.

U.S. Aid

The U.S. government has occasionally provided the CEE with limited material support and instruction. But, while this aid is welcome, the CEE still has many urgent needs — small and large. Here are some things that I heard CEE members mention they need: rappelling safety rings, new cameras and telephoto lenses, field uniforms made of light-weight cloth, American jungle boots, and internet access.

A couple of very important needs stand out: 1. More money — and its prompt disbursement — for informants, which is not only a problem for the CEE, but for all Colombian anti-narcotics forces. (Depending on the amount of drugs found, informants are paid a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, which is relatively paltry compared to the million-dollar production of labs they sometimes turn in. Also, it often takes weeks or months for an informant to collect his or her reward — and sometimes the money never comes.) 2. Helicopters exclusively and permanently assigned to the CEE. Unlike the police's Jungle Command, the CEE has none of its own and often has to postpone drug-lab raids because Army and Air Force helicopters have other responsibilities.

Says Capt. Romero, "Considering all our achievements, imagine how much more we could accomplish if we had more funding and our own helicopters." [See sidebars]

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Steve Salisbury is based in Guatemala City.

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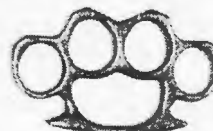
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B-1s Over Baghdad

Continued from page 67

"He Rolexed us twice," said Harencak, who kept saying to himself, "Come on guy, stop this, let's go."

"It took them a little longer to refuel than expected," said Jake "The Snake" Plummer, Harencak's DSO, who preferred to not have his true identity revealed in the event he has to go back to Baghdad again.

"We could see the package leader, Bear-31, leading a division of F/A-18s and F-14s up ahead of us without night vision goggles," said Harencak.

"Below us and to our left we had two Hornets and two Tomcats also hitting targets, and then we had our SEAD support, an EA-6B Prowler and two F/A-18s which launched pre-emptive strikes on enemy radar with a HARM shots."

On the way up the Persian Gulf, Plummer could hear the Navy over the guard channel saying they were launching TLAMs, Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles. The ships launching the Tomahawks were calling to aircraft to get out of the way.

"As we were pushing in, we could hear the aircraft say they could see the Iraqi airfield at Talil lit up with Triple A, and some Tomahawk impacts," said Plummer.

"And as we came in to attack our target, we saw an EA-6B launch a HARM right over our head," said Harencak, who watched it hit a radar site.

The next thing Harencak knew all Hell broke loose on the ground. The Iraqis opened up with anti-aircraft artillery. All of it unguided, but certainly firing at the incoming B-1s.

After the successful strike, Lt. Col. Harencak received an E-mail from a package leader aboard Enterprise. The F-14 pilot captured some rare gun camera footage of Harencak's bomb run by slewing his FLIR onto the Republican Guard barracks just before Harencak's Offensive Systems Officer walked a string of 63 500-pound Mk 82 bombs across the Republican Guard barracks.

Harencak didn't see his bombs hit the target. With wings swept back, he was banking 60 degrees off the target and high tailing it out of the "WEZ." But he knew he "swacked" the target.

"You just know when it feels right," said Harencak. "And there on the personal computer was proof."

Replaying the footage in his office at Dyess, this reporter could see bombs hit the first building and then ripple across the barracks in a blinding flash — an awesome display of firepower.

Dale B. Cooper is a senior correspondent for SOF. For an upcoming issue, he'll travel to Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, and talk to the commanding officer of the 28th AEG and the B-1 crews that helped make history. ✕

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early stage of World War II. It has been the experience of most armies that some of the pre-war water-walkers don't work out and have to be found other jobs. Even as portrayed, he would not have unburdened his soul to a mere company commander. And the discussion of how many casualties Company would take, would not have happened. Long before they get onto the beach, everyone has already decided that there are going to be casualties, because they know that's what happens in a war.

As one of the interviewees in The History Channel's review of this film pointed out, they would never have used a serviceable M1 rifle as a grave marker, thus losing the weapon and risking its being taken by the enemy. Temporary graves were otherwise marked. There was a practice of using a man's rifle, with bayonet stuck in the ground, to mark the location of a wounded soldier for the medics; the upended rifle could also serve to hold the bottle with the IV solution. There is a long list of other lapses in technical authenticity. And John Travolta is sadly lacking in credibility in his cameo appearance as a Brigadier General, even though it got his name on the marquee.

So much for what this movie is not. The apparent intent of the makers is to present — in a very artistic, philosophical and at times pretentious and long-drawn-out way — what they feel would be the emotions and feelings of soldiers and officers in their initial exposure to combat. This includes quite a lot of the actors displaying their skills at portraying strong, moved emotions, usually by way of staring with big sad eyes into the camera while the soundtrack plays music appropriate to the mood. At least we are spared the quivering lower lip. There is also a good bit of beautiful photography of trees, grass, flowers, animals, sky and scenery, I suppose to contrast the serenity and balance of nature with the horridness of war. And of course we get the totally novel insight that war is a dirty, violent, nasty business to which people react in all sorts of different ways.

Nor are we spared the clichés: the wise, wisecracking, philosophical first sergeant; the garrison under-achiever who turns into an outstanding combat soldier; the soldier who spends quite a lot of time, including moments in combat when you or I would be concentrating on the matter at hand, dreaming about his dearly beloved wife, and when he gets a "Dear John" letter from her, goes out and does some foolishly heroic thing and gets killed. At least we are spared the generally anti-military bias of so much of the Hollywood product. And the thing runs for a whole three hours to a surprise ending: When you think it's never going to end, it does. ❧

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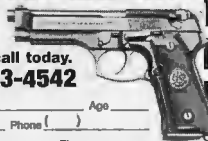
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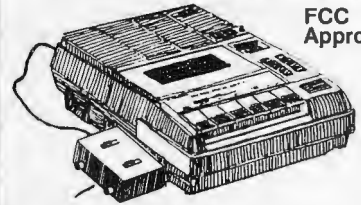
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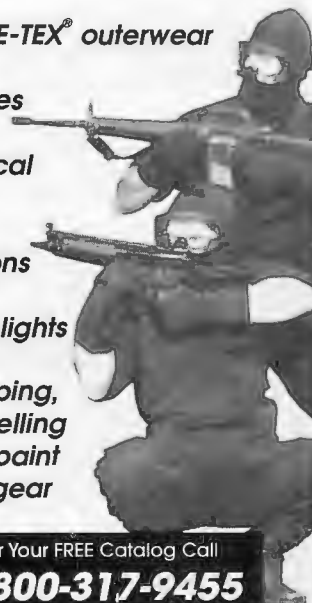
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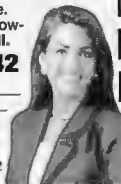


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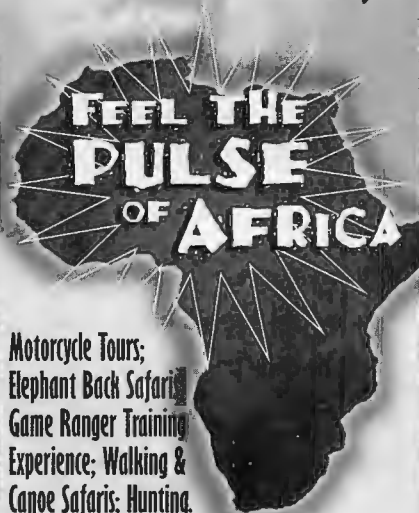


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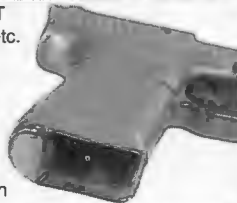
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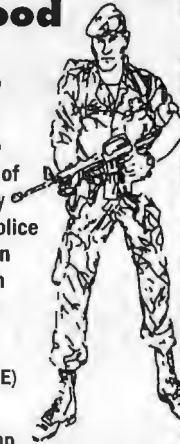
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Hit Saddam With A Ruler

While impeachment bombs explode in the senate this week, expect more fireworks over the skies of Iraq.

One day the impeachment spectacle will go away. Eventually, Starr could become a California surfer and Monica and Bill a Sonny-and-Cher-type Las Vegas act managed by Roger Clinton; but the way our national security fumblerers are performing, Saddam Hussein ain't never going to change careers.

Also, the way the body count in Iraq is growing, no one else may be left. Saddam's clan has pretty much eliminated anyone who can even spell opposition. That plus the deaths caused from the economic sanctions and the seemingly never-ending U.S. directed military campaign should finish the job.

This week will probably bring more of the "Saddam Show" as he continues to stir up trouble trying to bring down our aircraft over the two no-fly zones and then declaring it, "The mother of all air battles."

I well remember the 31 January 1991 Battle of Khafji that I witnessed so closely I could smell the cordite, see the gun flashes and experience the pucker factor. When it was over, burning tanks littered the field and more than 300 Iraqi prisoners ended up in the POW cage. Iraqi columns beat feet back across the Saudi border, and then Saddam, emulating General William Westmoreland of Vietnam, declared victory. "We won the mother of all battles," he exclaimed from the bottom of his bunker.

Eight years later he's still declaring victory while here we are, readying our missiles and bombs for another serious go at the ever-more-defiant monster of Baghdad with yet another no-win plan.

Our warriors are weary of being players in a game where the ground rules are counterproductive and don't allow them to win. A source in General Anthony Zinni's Tampa, Fla.-based Central Command Headquarters says the December bombing campaign was designed by Zinni to be much more than just another pinprick. But Bill Clinton and advisers cut it way back "on a scale not seen since LBJ and the Vietnam bombing campaign."

Perhaps a Clinton spinmeister suggested that 70 hours would play better in the polls and kick Bill's ever increasing popularity up to still loftier levels. Until Desert Fox, George Bush held the record for the shortest war in our history with Desert Storm



Col. David Hackworth, (Ret.) also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

weighing in at 100 hours.

After seven years of observing Clinton's strategic schemes, or rather lack of them, I'm convinced that playing the polls is given far more weight than mere principles of war.

For sure, more bombing alone won't do the job. Bombing coupled with U.S. troops on the ground could oust Saddam. But that would cost a price Clinton and pollster refuse to pay — American casualties.

Economic sanctions can't win either. They only hurt the innocent and accomplish nothing but bad karma and bad PR. Remember, tens of thousands of Iraqi children have already died because of medicine and food shortages. So where do we go from here?

Besides wearing out our military, we've spent enough dough battling Saddam since 1990 to give every American a new four-wheel-drive Jeep Cherokee, a high-definition TV and a desktop computer. Yet we're still on first base with Saddam totally in control of the pitchers mound.

In 1921, a British statesman took out his ruler, laid it on a map of Mesopotamia and, with a few quick strokes of a pencil, created Iraq. Next, the British proclaimed Syria's Emir Faisal the King of Iraq, but, of course, they retained control of their future gas station with military muscle.

Why not declare all of Iraq a no-fly zone and then borrow that British ruler and pencil. We could split off the oil-rich north and south, making two separate countries with the Kurds in charge of the north and the Shi'ite Muslims in the south. This would leave Saddam his due — a desert rump state in the center and not much else but sand and statues to his greatness. We could secure the peace as we have in Bosnia with troops on the ground and aircraft in the sky while the two new states went about preparing their own defenses.

Sure, it would be costly. But at least there'd be an end in sight.

[Http://www.hackworth.com](http://www.hackworth.com) is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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Hackworth's best-selling book, *Hazardous Duty*, has topped 90,000 copies in worldwide sales. ☒



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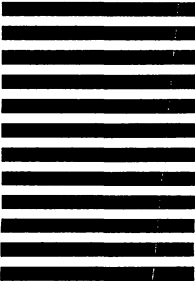
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